

## Woman in Gold – Review

Directed by Simon Curtis, whose 2011 debut *My Week with Marilyn* was **widely acclaimed**, *Woman in Gold* boasts a starry cast, from its central **duo** of Helen Mirren as Maria Altmann and Ryan Reynolds as lawyer Randy Schoenberg to **thespians** such as Charles Dance and Jonathan Pryce. It tells the fascinating true story of how one brave woman reclaims a painting that was stolen from her family by the Nazis 60 years **earlier**.

That painting is 'Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer' - or, as it's also **known**, 'Woman in Gold', by renowned artist Gustav Klimt, a **masterpiece** that

depicts Altmann's favourite aunt. In order to **retrieve** the painting, the **unlikely** pairing of Altmann and Schoenberg must take on the Austrian government, who are **unwilling** to part with the artwork.



The relationship between Altmann and Schoenberg - she eccentric yet **tough**, he **inexperienced** but fundamentally decent - is one of the film's many pleasures, and it carries the story **through** its ups and downs. Reynolds, soon to be seen in Marvel adaptation *Deadpool*, is cast against type here, but his is a convincing, warm performance, while Mirren is **reliably** good in the **main** role.

Altmann's **quest** is one that touches on **greed** and tragedy, and by **interspersing** the action with **flashbacks** that take place during the Nazi occupation of Vienna, Curtis finds many important **things** to say about human nature and the power of memory.