



AND THEN COME THE NIGHTJARS

24th
Year!

Autumn
Season
2023

Release: 2023

Cert (UK): 15, F

Country: UK

Language: English

Runtime: 1 hour 21 mins

Director: Paul Robinson

Written by: Bea Roberts

Cinematographer: John Craine

Cast: David Fielder, Nigel Hastings



A film that should have lots of local interest - based around the foot and mouth disease outbreak in 2001, which affected 2000 farms across the country, and resulted in over 6 million cows and sheep being killed to stem it. Although this film is based on a farm in Devon, Cumbria was the worst affected, with nearly 900 cases. The film started out in life as a stage play, written by Bea Roberts, which itself won many awards. The film has been made by the same people - director Paul Robinson, writer Bea Roberts and main actors, David Fielder and Nigel Hastings - so you can see it is a labour of love.

Starting in 2001, the two main characters are on a south Devon farm. Michael and local vet Jeffrey are awaiting the birth of a cow to join a herd all named after female members of the royal family ("Camilla was lost to bloat in February"). Michael recently lost his beloved wife, Sheila, and Jeffrey is clearly in the process of losing his wife, not least because of his growing drink problem. There's another cloud: foot and mouth has a hold in the area.

The film makers, Finite Film and TV, say simply 'A heart-warming story of friendship and survival set against the backdrop of the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak...tells the story of an unlikely friendship between a Devon farmer and the vet who is assigned to cull his precious herd'.

