



Margaret

Spring
Season
2013

Release: 2011

Cert (UK): 15

Runtime: 150 mins

Director: Kenneth Lonergan

Cast: Anna Paquin, Matt Damon, Mark Ruffalo, Jean Reno

Our first film for 2013 is the long-delayed 'Margaret', which has been the subject of an acrimonious battle over its length, between the director and the studio. The resulting two-and-a-half hour film has had 30 minutes cut, but still gives its audiences a lot to think about.



Lisa (Anna Paquin) is a mouthy private-school teenager with high expectations. We see her walking all over a would-be boyfriend from school and even her teachers are careful with her. On a whim she decides to buy a cowboy hat and goes out shopping for one. She sees one she likes on the head of a passing bus driver and runs along by the bus waving wildly to find out where the hat was bought, with terrible results.

The rest of the film shows the consequences of her action and her attempts to make up for it. Whatever she is trying to do, for whatever motives, she manages to make enemies, which just makes her more mad at the world; do not expect to like Lisa, but you will find her compelling to watch.

Anna Paquin played this part after she had been Rogue in the 'X Men' Series, but before filming the tv series 'True Blood', so, if it had been released quickly, it would have been even more of a surprise to see what a good actor she is. Even though Matt Damon and Mark Ruffalo are in support here, this is definitely her film.

Kenneth Lonergan has written several screenplays, including 'Gangs of New York' and 'Analyze This/That' so his ability was never in doubt. Added to this, his previous film, 'You can count on me', won him high accolades as a director. The puzzle, then, is why this film had such little success when it finally hit the screens last year. Maybe its audiences were simply expecting something more mainstream. When we saw it we discussed it for ages afterwards; I hope it inspires you too.

Lastly, why is it called 'Margaret'? Watch the film to find out, especially in the lessons at school...

