



MARY AND MAX (+ HARVEY KRUMPET)

Autumn
Season
2011

Release: 2009

Cert (UK): 12A

Runtime: 90 mins

Directors: Adam Elliot

Cast (voices): Philip Seymour-Hoffman, Toni Collett, Barry Humphries, Eric Bana

This is a 'claymation' film, photographed beautifully over more than a year by 120 people...but it is still an animated movie, so why should adults want to see it, why should Keswick Film Club bother? Well, let's look below the surface..

The story is about an 8 year old, Australian girl with no friends and lots of problems who decides to find a pen friend in America. She randomly picks on Max, who turns out to be a 44 year old morbidly obese man with even more problems than Mary. He decides to write back and there starts a 20 year letter swap, where Mary asks him lots of questions about the adult world, which Max tries to answer, but really has little or no idea about himself. Without giving away the whole plot, they both develop their lives but stay friends as Mary grows into an adult herself.



This is no 'Shrek', no kids film, though it has been used educationally to help children. Its story is about self-awareness and awareness of others, depression and loneliness, all of which it covers but the characters never wallow or feel sorry for themselves. The tone is kept humorous and balanced allowing us to be moved by the characters as they stumble through life but also

laugh at their foibles and observations of the world they struggle to fit into.

Adam Elliot, the director and scriptwriter, has already won an Oscar for Best Short Animated Film with his film Harvey Krumpet, which we are showing first, so we can see how he has developed his skills. IMDB describes Harvey Krumpet as '*The odd biography of a man who has Tourette's Syndrome, chronic bad luck, menial jobs, nudist tendencies, and a book of "fakts" hung around his neck.*', so Elliot knows how to make adult claymation, and how to attract stars to do the voices; this one is related by Geoffrey Rush.

Elliot says he could have made Mary & Max as an animated cartoon, or even with real actors, but he loves the world of clay and 'likes to get his hands dirty'. The story took him a year to write, and is based on a pen pal he himself has had for 20 years.

These films have worldwide acclaim; we can find out why on Sunday.

