



Short Term 12

Spring
Season
2014

Release: 2013

Cert (UK): 15

Runtime: 97 mins

Directors: Destin Daniel Cretton

Cast: Brie Larson, Frantz Turner, John Gallagher Jr., Kaitlyn Dever.



'After I graduated from college I couldn't find work and a friend of mine mentioned a group home for at risk teenagers that was hiring' the director recalls. On his first day, a seemingly nice kid had a lovely chat with Cretton – then blew up and threw a chair at him from across the room. 'it was by far one of the scariest moments I've ever had – at first. I was really afraid of doing something wrong and messing up these kids more than they already were. But after a month or so I fell in love with it'. He stayed on for two years.

It is an experience that stuck with Cretton. First he created a 20 minute short film which won the Jury Prize at Sundance in 2009 and then he wrote a feature length film based on it. It started to win prizeswinning both the Grand Jury and Audience Awards at SXSW 2013.

Told through the eyes of Grace (Brie Larson), a twenty-something supervisor at a foster-care facility for at-risk teenagers. Passionate and tough, Grace is a formidable caretaker of the kids in her charge – and in love with her long-term boyfriend and co-worker, Mason (John Gallagher Jr). But Grace's own difficult past – and the surprising future that suddenly presents itself – throw her into unforeseen confusion, made all the sharper with the arrival of a new intake at the facility: a gifted but troubled teenage girl with whom Grace has a charged connection. While the subject matter is complex, this lovingly realized film finds truth – and humor – in unexpected places.

But even the Guardian critics can't agree with each other – 'Triumphant ... Short Term 12 breathes with kindness and intelligence,' writes Catherine Shoard or 'rides into town on a wave of acclaim for its director, and for its star, Brie Larson, but I just couldn't buy it' says Peter Bradshaw