



The Main Feature

Season 44 – Issue 17 – Screening 22 May 2025

Three Day Millionaire

UK, 2022, 92 mins, Cert 15

Director	Jack Spring
Screenplay	Paul Stephenson
Cinematography	Andrew Rodger
Art Direction	Dave Lazenby
Music	Jeremy James Hunt

Cast

The Gang

James Burrows	Curly Dean
Sam Glen	Budgie
Michael Kinsey	Codge
Jonas Armstrong	Mr Graham
Robbie Gee	Wheezy

The Girls

Grace Long	Queenie
Melissa Batchelor	Demi
Laura Peterson	Ella
Lauren Foster	Gilly
Johanna Allitt	Marion
Catherine Adams	Budgie's Mum

The Others

Colm Meaney	Mr Barr
Andrew Readman	Teapot (Curly's Dad)



Our final film for this season is a lightweight caper set in Grimsby. It's a combination of *The Full Monty* (working class men caught out by economic changes); *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* (cheeky-chappies in stylised situations); and *Ocean's Eleven* (a meticulously planned daring heist).

Curly and his gormless friend Budgie are two young, single trawlermen coming home after a stint at sea. Given the dangers of their job, the tradition is to splurge their pay on "merriment" for their three days landside before going back. The bars and nightclubs do well – ISA sellers, not so much. However, Curly

discovers that plans are well advanced to re-develop and gentrify the dockside eliminating his livelihood. He doesn't fancy unemployment or a zero hours contract selling "overpriced muffins" and "shite coffee." With the connivance of Mr Graham, a disillusioned white-collar dock employee, and with the help of their druggie former colleague Codge and a compliant local taxi driver, Curly and Budgie decide to steal funds from their employer (Mr Barr) to start new lives.

In the 1950s, Grimsby had the world's largest fishing fleet but a combination of declining stocks, competition from foreign "factory ships" and the ructions caused by the 'Cod War' ushered in a steep decline. The town developed a reputation as an economic blackspot. The Sacha Baron Cohen film *Grimsby* (also known as 'the Brothers Grimsby', made in 2016) relentlessly mocked the town and its people for dubious comic effect. It filmed desolate scenes in Essex, not Grimsby itself. As part of the release publicity, Cohen was quoted as saying "Grimsby is a lovely town in the North of England, which is twinned with the city of Chernobyl. I'm very proud of it - it was recently declared number three in the whole of Europe for childhood obesity and we just became the first town in England to achieve 100 per cent unemployment." Such a wag! The movie bombed at the global box office (deservedly so) but left a sour taste in the mouths of many locals ('Grimbarians').

Setting up *Three Day Millionaire*, director Jack Spring explicitly rejected any declinist depiction (a 'lazy trope' as he described it). He told Sky News that 'the whole film, when you strip it back, is about identity in towns like Grimsby, almost echoed in every northern industrial town that, at some point, had the same thing happen to it. Grimsby is now one of the UK leaders in the renewable energy space and the offshore wind farms and... big companies [are] coming to town and creating new jobs - but it's taken an awful long time. It's only really in the last five years maybe that you can really say that Grimsby has found its new identity and is on the up.'

Sam Glen (Budgie) commented that initially local people were resistant, saying that 'there was a feeling of fear because... every time a film crew appears in this town, they kind of know where it's leading to in terms of the story that it's trying to tell.' Director Spring added: 'But everyone was great. The whole town really opened the door to outsiders. It was during COVID, so we were knocking on people's doors saying, "Hi, can we come and look at your bathroom? We're making a film", and what a weird request, but people would let us in. It was a genuine joy and privilege to spend a couple of months there doing this.' In fact, the town was so pleased by the attention that hundreds signed up as extras, and when the premiere was held in neighbouring Cleethorpes, the demand for tickets meant it was shown simultaneously across four screens. Why not have the opening night in Grimsby? Its last cinema closed more than 20 years ago.

Sadly, the film never found an audience elsewhere, and aside from a sniffily brief review in the Guardian ('a couple of funny scenes and some genuine moments of camaraderie...[but] charmless at times, and difficult to warm to') it passed most reviewers by. It has been hidden away on Netflix for the last 2 years.

To be honest, the film does not live long in the memory, with some characters either clichéd (Colm Meaney is wasted as the local Boss, with his dulcet Dubliner tones replaced by a generic Northern accent) or seriously under-developed (the women). There may be less swearing than in *Wicked Little Letters* shown earlier this year - but the language is still salty. But...if you're in the mood for an undemanding film with a feel-good ending...you're in the right (ahem) place!

Eugene Smith



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Club website: www.wncc.org.uk. Prefer to leave your comments on the film and your score online rather than on paper? Email to reactions@wncc.org.uk by Wednesday 28 May 2025
Discs of previous shows are available to hire for a modest fee.

Woking Film Club – Programme for 45th season – subject to confirmation

2025 11 Sept	Conclave (UK, 2024, 120 min, cert 12) When Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with leading one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, selecting a new Pope, he finds himself at the centre of a web of conspiracies and intrigue that could shake the very foundation of the Catholic Church.
25 Sept	Maria (USA, 2024, 124 min, cert 12A) Maria Callas, the world's greatest opera singer, lives the last days of her life in 1970s Paris, as she confronts her identity.
9 Oct	Perfect Days (Japan, 2025, 125 min, cert PG) Hirayama cleans public toilets in Tokyo, lives his life in simplicity and daily tranquility. Some encounters also lead him to reflect on himself.
23 Oct	The Dressmaker (Australia, 2015, 118 min, cert 12) A glamorous woman returns to her small town in rural Australia. With her sewing machine and haute couture style, she transforms the women and exacts sweet revenge on those who did her wrong.
13 Nov	Frantz (France, Germany, 2016, 114 min, cert 12) In the aftermath of WWI, a young German who grieves the death of her fiancé in France meets a mysterious Frenchman who visits the fiancé's grave to lay flowers.
27 Nov	Jimi: All is by My Side (UK, USA, 2013, 118 min, cert 15) A drama based on Jimi Hendrix's life as he left New York City for London, where his career took off.
11 Dec	A Christmas Tale (Un conte de Noël) (France, 2008, 150 min, cert 15) The troubled Vuillard family is no stranger to illness, grief, and banishment, but when their matriarch requires a bone-marrow transplant, the estranged clan reunites just in time for Christmas.
2026 8 Jan	Mr Burton (UK, 2025, 124 min, 12A) The story of the wild school boy Rich Jenkins, son of a boozy miner and an English teacher who recognised his talent, Philip Burton. A moving, untold story of how Rich Jenkins became Richard Burton the biggest star Wales has ever produced.
22 Jan	Chevalier (USA, 2022, 108 min, cert 12A) Son of an African slave and a French farmer, Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, achieves an unthinkable position in society as a famous violinist, composer and fencer, in addition to experiencing an ill-fated love affair.
12 Feb	Touch (Snerting) (Iceland, 2024, 121 min, cert 15) A romantic and thrilling story that spans several decades and continents; Touch follows one man's emotional journey to find his first love who disappeared 50 years ago, before his time runs out.
26 Feb	Thelma (USA, 2024, 97 min, cert 12A) When 93-year-old Thelma Post gets duped by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, she sets out on a treacherous quest across the city to reclaim what was taken from her.
12 March	Girls Will Be Girls (India, 2024, 118 min, cert 15) At a strict boarding school nestled in the Himalayan foothills, 18-year-old Mira first discovers desire and romance. However, her curious, rebellious, coming-of-age is disrupted by her young mother, who never got to come of age herself.
26 March	How To Make Millions Before Grandma Dies (Lahn Mah) (Thailand, 2024, 125 min, cert 12A) A man, driven by his desire for a multi-million dollar inheritance, begins to care for his terminally ill grandmother. However, winning her favour will not be an easy task and he is not the only one with an eye on the money.
9 April	The Penguin Lessons (UK, 2025, 111 min, cert 12A) A disillusioned Englishman who goes to work in a school in a divided Argentina in 1976 finds his life transformed when he rescues an orphaned penguin from the beach.
23 April	I'm Still Here (Ainda Estou Aqui) (Brazil, 2024, 137 min, cert 15) A woman married to a former politician during the military dictatorship in Brazil is forced to reinvent herself and chart a new course for her family after a violent and arbitrary act.
14 May	Still Life (Italy, UK, 2013, 92 min, cert 12) A council case worker looks for the relatives of those found dead and alone.
28 May	AGM and Mid-August Lunch (Pranzo di ferragosto) (Italy, 2008, 76 min, cert U) Broke, and armed with only a wry sense of humour, middle-aged Gianni lives with his mother in their old apartment. The debts are mounting, but if Gianni looks after the building manager's mother during the Ferragosto, all will be forgiven.

Comments and reactions to: **The Blue Caftan**

No of reaction slips received = 22

Average score = 6.05

Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	~	1	1	~	1	4	8	2	1	4	~

I loved the fabric/needlework. More please!

Wonderfully atmospheric and a sensitive account of love in all its aspects

Love is cruel, love is kind, only memories left behind

Very sad film, moving in parts. 2nd half much better

Rather slow and drawn out but very well-acted and good cinema

A bit slow but something different

Very atmospheric of life and death in Morocco, but sadly too long and drawn out. Excellent acting

Serene, with a lingering impact. Intimately shot. Excellent casting. Wonderful.

Slow film but great acting & photography. Great to see a film touching on gay men from a Muslim country.

The co-existence of the husband's attraction to men and his love for his wife is very touching and yes, it can happen. (Not in my case I hasten to add !)

Beautifully filmed, atmospheric, a little predictable but overall a terrific moving film

Position	Film	Average score
1	One Life	8.80
2	Maudie	7.97
3	The Great Escaper	7.96
4	Wicked Little Letters	7.66
5	The Holdovers	7.62
6	Anatomy of a Fall	7.22
7	The Taste of Things	7.16
8	Chocolat	6.96
9	The Color Purple	6.77
10	Past Lives	6.46
11	The Blue Caftan	6.05
12	Winners	5.88
13	Barbie	5.59
14	Slow	5.54
15	Poor Things	5.10
16	All of Us Strangers	4.75



Forthcoming attraction: 11 September 2025 – **Conclave**
(subject to confirmation)

The film, which is by far the best adaptation of Harris's work to date — brisk, smart, and propulsively plotted — is basically 12 Angry Men with incense and some Latin argumentation. Sunday Times

Not just dramatically satisfying, but philosophically satisfying.
Mark Kermode