WOKING FILM CLUB

The Main Feature

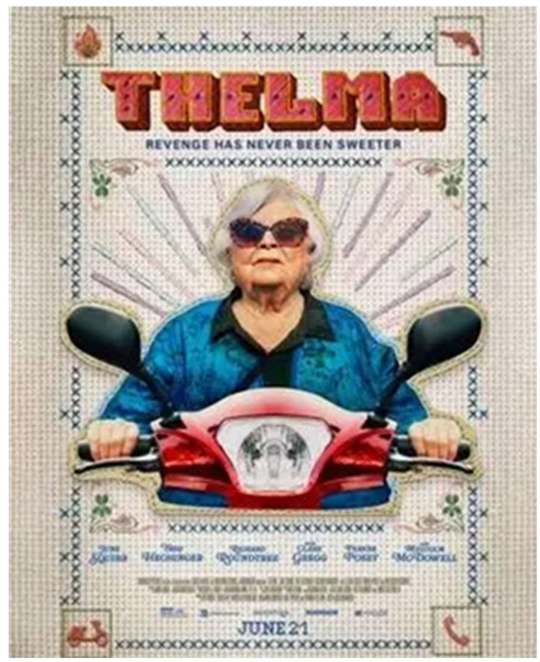
Season 45 – Issue 11 – Screening 26th February 2026

Thelma

US	2024
96 mins	Certificate 12A

Director	Josh Margolin
Writer	Josh Margolin
Editor	Josh Margolin
Photography	David Bolen
Set Director	Sandy Hubshman
Music	Nick Chuba

June Squibb	Thelma
Fred Hechinger	Danny (grandson)
Parker Posey	Gail (daughter)
Clark Gregg	Alan (son-in-law)
Richard Roundtree	Ben
Bunny Levine	Mona
Malcolm McDowell	Harvey



Our presentation this evening is a warm-hearted action comedy-drama about revenge, relationships and ageing, enlivened by a magnificent performance from June Squibb.

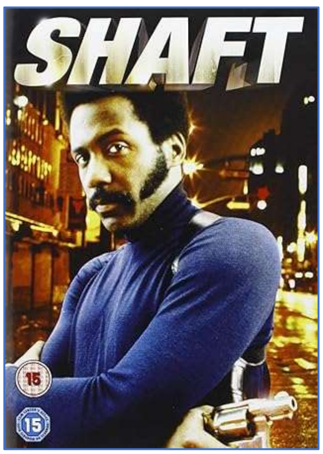
Thelma is an independent but slightly absent-minded 93-year-old adjusting to life in her comfortable Los Angeles home, two years after the death of her beloved husband Ted. Her aimless 24-year-old grandson Danny is a frequent and solicitous visitor. He helps Thelma navigate her computer whilst she provides re-assuring comfort as he drifts listlessly through life. Thelma receives a panicky call from “Danny” who is in a jailcell after an accident. He is breathlessly seeking her assistance with legal costs. On cue, a “lawyer” then calls asking for a $10,000 advance fee to represent him, giving Thelma a post office box address for the funds. Thelma races around her house, collecting various stashes of cash. She frantically calls her (rather neurotic) daughter Gail and then Danny – but they only pick up after she’s posted off the money. She’s managed to lose the mailing address and the police can only shrug their shoulders. She overhears her daughter and buttoned-down son-in-law discussing whether it’s time to consider a care home. Thelma remembers where she’s left the address and doggedly decides to purse the scammer without involving her family. She ropes in Ben, from his assisted living accommodation, riding off on his mobility scooter before stopping off at another friend’s house to (ahem) tool up.

This is a whimsical, warm-hearted film that apes more traditional action fare but is grounded in the realities of old age. Before seeing Ben, Thelma calls her friends to see if they can help, only to realise that they have all either died or succumbed to serious illness. There are coy call-outs to the Mission: Impossible films both in the musical score and an ingenious use of Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids. Tom Cruise is thanked in the closing credits.

Thelma is the feature film debut of director/writer/editor Josh Margolin. He was inspired by a similar (thwarted) scam attempt involving his 103-year-old Grandma (also named Thelma), who appears at the end of the film.

June Squibb first trod the boards on Broadway in “Gypsy” in 1959, but only made her film debut in 1990 aged 61 and then appeared sporadically in a few low-key roles in films and TV dramas. She was nominated for an Oscar as Best Supporting Actress for Nebraska in 2014 but Thelma is her first leading role – and yes, she did her own stunts.

The dignified and gentlemanly Ben is played by Richard Rowntree (best known as ‘Shaft’ in 1971): Thelma was his last film as he died from pancreatic cancer 3 weeks before the premiere at the Sundance Festival. He was 81 years old.



Critical reaction to the film was almost universally positive (the Rotten Tomatoes website shows a 98% favourable rating from 208 reviews), with particular praise for Squibb.

The Times commended her “gorgeous, compassionate and often hilarious turn” and applauded “a great big happy, sad and profoundly moving hug of a film.” Empire magazine praised a “film buoyed by a consistently funny script, real pathos and stellar comic performances” and Entertainment Weekly celebrated “a charming and hilarious ode to action-movie excess” with “real sweetness under all the gags” and “proof that Squibb’s star role was well worth the wait.”

It's a sentimental ride – and you’ll never look at a mobility scooter the same way again!

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 4th March

Discs of most of our previous shows are available to hire for a modest fee.

How to Avoid Scams

https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/

Do not give out any personal information
This includes giving name, address, bank details, email or phone number to organisations or people before verifying their credentials
Always question unsolicited calls, texts or emails requesting your personal or financial information (name, address, bank details, email or phone number). Instead, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number
Make sure your computer has up-to-date anti-virus software and a firewall installed
Ensure your browser is set to the highest level of security and monitoring to prevent malware issues and computer crimes
Always install the latest software and app updates on all of your devices. Protect your email account with a strong, separate password and enable two-factor authentication (2FA) where possible. Installing, or enabling, antivirus software on your laptops and computers will protect them from viruses and hackers
Look out for phishing emails
Many frauds start with a phishing email. Remember that banks and financial institutions will not send you an email asking you to click on a link and confirm your bank details. Do not trust such emails, even if they look genuine
You can always call your bank using the phone number on a genuine piece of correspondence, website (typed directly into the address bar) or the phone book to check if you're not sure
Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text
Remember, email addresses and phone numbers can be spoofed, so don't use those as a means to verify that a message or call is authentic
The best way to get in touch with a company is to use a known email or phone number, such as the one on the back of your bank card
Sign-up to Verified by Visa or MasterCard Secure Code
Layer up your protection. When shopping online, always check the web address to make sure you are on the correct site and sign-up to Verified by Visa or MasterCard Secure Code whenever you are given the option
Monitor and review personal & credit files
You should regularly get a copy of your credit file. If you spot anything suspicious, make sure your report it as soon as possible
If you have been affected by a data breach that leaked your personal or financial details, monitor your credit file and bank accounts regularly for any unusual activity
An identity protection service such as Identity Plus monitors your Experian credit report and alerts you by email or SMS to potentially fraudulent activity. If it's fraud, a dedicated caseworker will help you resolve everything
Remove receipts & letters containing important information
Destroy and preferably shred receipts with your card details on and post with your name and address on. Identity fraudsters don't need much information in order to be able to clone your identity
Stay in control, destroy your receipts and posts with your name on. If you receive a bill, invoice, or receipts for things you haven't brought or normally deal with, take action. Your identity may have been stolen
Be wary of suspicious activity
Be extremely wary of post, phone calls or emails offering you business deals out of the blue. If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is - always question it
Listen to your instincts and be wary of unsolicited calls, emails or online ads offering deals that sound too good to be true
Genuine banks, or other trusted organisations, won't pressure you into making a financial transaction, if something feels wrong then it's usually right to question it
Be aware of follow-up fraud
If you have been a victim of fraud, be aware of recovery fraud. This is when fraudsters pretend to be a lawyer or a law enforcement officer and tell you they can help you recover the money you've already lost

Comments and reactions to: **Touch** (shown 12th February 2026)

No of reaction slips received = 30 | Average score = 8.20

Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	16	6	3

Lovely story. Lovely film. Made me cry!

A feelgood film

Very enjoyable

Enjoyable story, well told. Very apt for Valentine's Day

Good to see a romance – and appropriate for the time of year!

Charming

An emotional story with a wonderful ending

Lovely film

Lovely, feel-good film

Excellent. Very different. Good choice

Wonderful film, very moving

What a beautiful love story!

Beautiful story. Rather slow for me

A delightful, charming, gentle film; sadly, of our time

It was lovely to see a film with a happy ending. Well-paced and well-acted

Very moving film and compelling. Liked the short film also

Slow at first but absorbing. It was the Hiroshima background that elevated it out of the ordinary to excellent and poignant

A bit slow but came good in the end

Really lovely film. Bittersweet

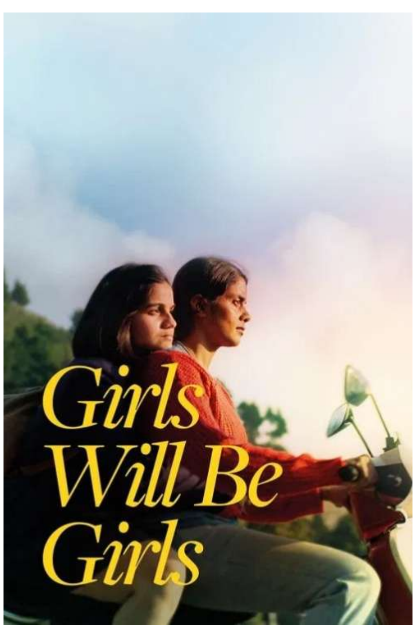
Unusual story, very well made and acted

Sensitive exploration of young age and old age love. Gentle and sustaining love. Delightful and sensitively acted portrayal of Japanese problems of atomic bomb repercussions

A cracker. A great choice for Valentine's Day, very touching

Position	Film	Score	Reactions
1	Mr. Burton	8.41	29
2	**Touch (Snerting)**	**8.20**	**30**
3	Conclave	8.15	34
4	Frantz	7.91	32
5	The Dressmaker	7.73	26
6	Perfect Days	7.34	29
7	Chevalier	6.80	25
8	Maria	6.16	25
9	Jimi - All is By My Side	4.77	26
10	A Christmas Tale/Conte de Noel	3.72	25

Our Next Film – Girls Will Be Girls – 12th March 2026



It's typical of the deadpan realism that the India-born and New York-based film-maker Shuchi Talati brings to a movie that sits neatly between Diary of a Teenage Girl and Imitation of Life, and yet is also culturally and painfully specific – The Times

A profoundly moving document of generational girlhood – RogerEbert.com

A beautiful tale portraying the insecurities, foibles, whims and fancies of a young girl through a realistic template – IMDb Reviewer