

FILM REVIEW:

“KEEPING MUM”

by Daría Parras.



“Keeping Mum” is a British black comedy film that came out in 2005. Directed by Niall Johnson and starring Rowan Atkinson, Kristin Scott Thomas, Maggie Smith and Patrick Swayze.

The movie starts with a pregnant woman on a train, named Rosie Jones, where she is revealed to be a killer, who ended the life of her husband and his lover.

Forty three years later, Walter Goodfellow, the vicar of Little Wallop, his wife, Gloria, and his family are introduced to their new housekeeper, Grace Hawkins.

Grace gets an inside look into the Goodfellow family, where she discovers that Gloria is not feeling loved enough, so she looks for it with another man, Lance, her golf instructor; Holly, their teenage daughter is struggling with her physical maturity and she is constantly changing boyfriends; and their son, Petey, is a victim of bullying at school.

Grace, slowly, sets up everything to try to solve their problems in her own way, by killing the people involved in them: Clarence, the dog who does not let Gloria sleep; Mr. Brown, the owner of said dog; Lance, who was filming Holly while she was naked in her room...



She also tries to help Gloria by suggesting to Walter to add humour to his sermons, and showing him a bible passage that has erotic references.

Later on, Gloria and Holly find out, by a news programme, that Grace is not actually Grace, she is a serial killer who has been on the run for years and is wanted by the police.

Grace notices and confronts them about it, she explains what she does and why she does it, and although Gloria and Holly are not okay with it, she announces that she is actually Gloria's mum, so they now feel a connection and help her hide the last body she murdered.

In the end, Grace decides that it would be better if she left Little Wallop, but promises the Goodfellow family that they will keep in contact.

All in all, the movie takes a comedic turn on how a family might work and the process they have to go through.

Film review of "Keeping mum"

I expected that it would be a typical film for old people but I was mistaken. It is a film that makes you laugh all the time, it is not a sweet and light comedy because it has a dark side, which is evident from the beginning, but that aspect drives the humor, because it touches feelings in us which we must restrain, but in watching the film we are allowed to have them.

It also has a lot of very deep things to say about marriage and religion, for example Atkinson plays a shy, self-confident vicar with a beautiful wife and daughter that he doesn't take care off.

In fact, it has some very intelligent things to say about both of them. All people (also teenagers) really must see this movie because they will enjoy it.

By Lola Tarín Jaraba

Keeping Mum

Film review by Marco Noguera Ochoa

Keeping Mum is a British film directed and co-written by Niall Johnson. It was released the 2nd of December of 2005, and it features famous actors such as Rowan Atkinson or Maggie Smith.

This film tells the story of an English family living in the small village of Little Wallop. The Goodfellows are a peculiar family, given that they experience all sort of inconveniences on a daily basis. However, their monotone living rhythm suddenly changes with the arrival of the new housekeeper, Grace Hawkins. She puts all of her effort at learning about their troubles and finding "unorthodox" ways of putting an end to them. As longer the plot goes on, the more we learn about her past, that helps us understand a little bit better her actions.

It is because of her appearing that the members of the Goodfellow family evolve and go through a lot of change. For starters, Walter Goodfellow (the father of the family and vicar of the town) gets back the sense of humour he lost long ago, and he also realizes how much he loves his wife and decides to restore the lively relationship they once had. The older daughter of the marriage, Holly, seems at first an irresponsible girl, but following Grace's advice, she begins to grow up from teenager to adult. Also, Petey (Holly's younger brother) learns how to deal with bullies and to be a confident boy. However, the character we can see the bigger change in is Gloria, Walter's wife and mother of Holly and Petey. During the beginning of the movie, we notice how her life appears to be monotonous and dull. She must take care of the upbringing of her disobeying daughter and her bullied son, alongside with many other house

chores. She is not able of getting good sleep at nights, but what seems to be the worse for her is having lost the excitement and joy her marriage once gave her. She even is tempted to cheat on her family with another man, but Grace makes it clear that she would just be complicating her live by that. Finally, she decides to try and start to feel like her old self again, slowly but successfully.

At the end of the film, we are told that Grace actually is Gloria's mum. She was convicted almost by the time she gave birth to her daughter, because she was found guilty of murdering her husband when she found out he had an affair with her mistress. Grace never got the chance of raising Gloria, so as soon as she is released, she looks for her with the hope of recovering the lost time.

The plot of this movie is mainly simple and predictable. However, it is its dark sense of humour that makes it the perfect comedy. Keeping Mum is an utterly surrealistic, plain film that exaggerates every aspect of the character's lives and fixes each one of their problems with a drastic solution, often in the form of death. Grace is a quite mentally unstable woman who does not seem to understand how her actions affect the world surrounding her, and she doesn't even doubt when she finds the need of doing whatever she has to in order to make her live -or her loved ones' lives- easier.

All in all, I find that this is an apparently comic movie that slightly hides small but important messages. Even if Grace's manners are unviable, most of the time she is right when she gives her advice and, what is more, she is key at making the characters evolve into a better version of themselves. Besides that, I think that the best feature of this dark comedy is precisely its humour, since it gives it a funny and appealing plot to the spectator's eyes.

Keeping mum

KEEPINGMUM



Keeping mum is a comedy in which the family of the vicar's of the village gets involved in some changes when an old lady arrived to their home.

In this film we can see the act of some recognized actors like Rowan Atkinson, who plays the role of Walter Goodfellow (the vicar) and we also know him for his role as

Mr. Been, Maggie Smith who plays the role of Grace Hawkins and is also known for her role on Harry Potter as Professor McGonagall or her role on Downtown Abbey, there is also Kristin Scott as Gloria Goodfellow, Tamsin Egerton as Holly Goodfellow and Toby Parkers as Petey Goodfellow.

The film starts with the scene of a young pregnant woman travelling on a train, she finally gets in prison because of a crime.

After that we travel to a little village where the Goodfellow family lives, we can appreciate that this family is a normal and traditional family where the daughter hangs out with lots of boys, the kid is a shy boy who gets bullied in his school and the parents marriage is short of stuck.

Suddenly an old woman gets into their lives and changes it completely, she helps the vicars with his speeches giving them a little of comedy and help him also with his wife, the old lady also helps Petey in school and teaches Holly how to cook.

At the end we find out that the old woman is Gloria's mum and that she is killing more people on the village.

This is a funny comedy which I recommend because of the plot and the laughs you can have while you are watching it.

By Claudia Lleó.

By Paula Prats Subirats (Spain)

KEEPING MUM

This charming little black comedy should have all but ultra conservatives smiling throughout the ludicrous scripting, eluding gaping plot holes and complete unrealism with sheer likability. A friendly, very export-worthy British comedy, Keeping Mum is a throwback to guilt free, sinister joys that were in much greater fashion before everyone decided to let their films guide their morality.

Nothing has recently personified this old fashioned, fun spirited creepiness as affectionately as Maggie Smith's vibrant performance for her semi-cuckoo, housemaid with a few secrets of her own. With a delightful, perceptive supporting cast, the plot may not exactly pull you in (especially the first half), but will nonetheless keep pleasant spirits anchored as the real fun takes hold. Rowan Atkinson in particular, portraying a character not unlike his famous bumbling priest in Four Weddings and a Funeral, gets to exercise more of his subtle comedic chops than usually seen, and the ensuing awkwardness that radiates whenever he is on screen is sweet and endearing.

Despite the obvious tone of an utmost fictionalization, I suppose Keeping Mum will still take a few hits for it's portrayal of religion and murder, but anyone seriously trying to

analyze the lack of morality on this one will have missed the whole carefree point. The characters might have been completely unbelievable by the time this thing is over, but the nature of this kind

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by Luz Carbonell.

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