



Heartland Film Society

presents

The Visitor (2008)

Thursday 6th and Friday 7th May 2010



This is director Tom McCarthy's second film, after *The Station Agent*. This time he turns his attention to a quiet exploration of the personal impact of the 'War on Terror'. Walter, played by a craggy and morose Richard Jenkins (you might know him from *Six Feet Under*), is an academic in a rut. He's done his best work and now he's just marking time, keeping busy and achieving not much. He comes home one day to find some unexpected visitors in his apartment and, guess what? They change his life by introducing him to a whole other world outside of his East Coast comfort zone. His visitors are a Syrian musician, Tarek Khalil (Haaz Sleiman) and his Senegalese girlfriend Zainab (Danai Gurira), a jewellery designer who are both Muslims. And illegal immigrants. Despite their developing friendship with Walter trouble follows for the trusting Tarek and he is arrested by the NYPD and gets caught in the net of US immigration bureaucracy post 9/11.

What the critics said: "*The Visitor* is a heartfelt, humanistic drama that deftly explores identity, immigration, and other major post-9/11 issues." Rotten Tomatoes (and a 90% freshness rating)

"Basically predictable ... "From the producers of *Sideways*" is how this carefully sensitive drama is billed - but I'm afraid that, though decently intentioned, it has nothing like the punch ... of that movie" Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*

"*The Visitor* with impressive grace and understatement, resist[s] potential triteness and phony uplift." A. O Scott, *New York Times*

Awards and nominations Richard Jenkins got nominated for a Best Actor Oscar as well as many other best actor awards and nominations.

Length and certificate: 106 minutes, 12A **Language:** English

Coming next season... a great new programme!

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