

AFTER LOVE

United Kingdom (2020) 89 minutes

Director: Aleem Khan

Cast: Joanna Scanlan (Mary), Nathalie Richard (Geneviève), Talid Ariss (Solomen)



Screening 7th September 2022 at Swindon Arts Centre

Synopsis

Set in the port town of Dover in the South-East of England, Mary Hussain suddenly finds herself a widow following the unexpected death of her husband. A day after the burial, she discovers he has a secret family just twenty-one miles across the English Channel in Calais.

Reviews



The debut feature from English-Pakistani film-maker Aleem Khan is a tale of secrets and lies, a portrait of people caught between identities and cultures. At its heart is a constrained yet wonderfully expressive performance by the versatile Joanna Scanlan, here offering a masterclass in the dramatic power of understatement ... English, French and Urdu are spoken, but it's notable just how much Scanlan says without words, her eyes telegraphing earth-shaking revelations even as her lips remain sealed. By contrast, Richard speaks and gestures freely, while Ariss does a remarkable job of capturing both the anger (in one shocking scene, he spits in his mother's face) and the anguish of a young man torn between his parents, his sexuality, his home.

Mark Kermode, Observer Film Critic

As the crow flies, only about 30 miles separate the port towns of Dover and Calais — a distance that, in many parts of the world, wouldn't span any greater culture shift than a slight tweak in accent. When those miles are filled with the English Channel, however, opposite coastlines represent opposite worlds, where everything from language to sexual mores are poles apart. It's a short but jolting journey, an exercise in social and geographic disorientation that British-Pakistani filmmaker Aleem Khan probes to layered, thoughtful effect in his auspicious first feature 'After Love.'

Guy Lodge, Variety

Film Facts

- After Love won 6 British Independent Film Awards (BIFAs) and Joanna Scanlon won a BAFTA for Best Actress in a leading role for this film.
- Joanna Scanlan is a well-regarded character actor best known in the U.K. for her TV comedy work ("Getting On," "The Thick of It") and an invaluable supporting presence in such British heritage pictures as "Girl With a Pearl Earring" and "The Invisible Woman." But she's never previously been gifted a film lead as demanding as Mary in 'After Love'.
- 'After Love' is Aleem Khan's debut feature film. He has Pakistani and English heritage.

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