



Amour

Spring
Season
2013

Release: 2012
Cert (UK): PG
Runtime: 127 mins
Director: Michael Haneke



Known for *Cache (Hidden)*, *The White Ribbon* and *The Piano Teacher* multiple award winner Michael Haneke has again produced a wonderful film. It is currently nominated for BAFTAs and Oscars and features stunning performances from the two leads, Jean-Louis Trintignant (aged 81) and Emmanuelle Riva (aged 84).

'Michael Haneke's 'Amour' is devastatingly original and unflinching in the way it examines the effect of love on death, and vice versa. It's a staggering, intensely moving look at old age and life's end, It offers an intimate, brave and devastating portrait of an elderly Parisian couple, Anne (Riva) and Georges (Trintignant), facing up to a sudden turn in their lives. Haneke erects four walls to keep out the rest of the world, containing his drama almost entirely within one apartment over some weeks and months. The only place we see this couple outside their flat, right at the start, is at the theatre, framed from the stage. Haneke reverses the perspective for the rest of the film. The couple's flat becomes a theatre for their stories: past, present and future.

Haneke presents the stark realities of sickness – problems of washing, mobility, going to the toilet – but his aim is not solely to present a realistic portrait of the end. More than that, he wants to explore the emotions and instincts felt by this couple – pride, despair, impending loss, empathy and its limits. There are strong feelings at play, but there's also an intense pragmatism afoot. Georges has made a pledge to Anne: 'Please never take me back to the hospital... Promise... Promise me.' Among so many other things, this is a film about loyalty and being true to your word. 'Amour' is a staggering, highly intelligent and astonishingly performed work. It's a masterpiece.' Time Out

'Amour will, I believe, take its place alongside the greatest films about the confrontation of ageing and death' Philip French.