



A Royal Affair

(En Kongelig Affære)

Autumn
Season
2012

Release: 2012

Cert (UK): 15

Runtime: 137 mins

Director: Nikolaj Arcel

Cast: Mads Mikkelsen, Alicia Vikander, Mikkel Boe Folsgaard

We start our new season with a classy period drama from Denmark. Set in the 1770s, we see the well educated, 15 year old English Princess Caroline (Alicia Vikander) being 'traded' in marriage to the Danish King Christian VII (played to

great reviews by the dark horse of the cast - Mikkel Boe Folsgaard). International power-mongering aside, this is not a good match as Christian is a 'pea-brained ninny'. Our Princess can do nothing but accept the situation...until a new King's Physician is appointed. Johann Friedrich Struensee (Mads Mikkelsen) is no mere doctor, however; he is also a radical thinker. When the Princess and the Doctor become lovers, they also set out



to make the King their puppet in order to take Denmark from the Dark Ages to the Enlightenment.

What follows, then, is more than a love affair. It is also an engrossing political drama - we watch as their attempts to change the country become corrupted. Remembering that this all happened before the French Revolution, it is a piece of history that has been lost to us until now (although we can only assume the Danish might be more familiar).

Mads Mikkelsen (*Casino Royale*) leads a relatively unknown Danish cast, although the sharp-eyed amongst us may have spotted Alicia Vikander in the very recent *Anna Karenina*.



The director Nikolaj Arcel has directed a few films in Denmark, but his main claim to fame here is that he wrote the screenplay for *The Girl With a Dragon Tattoo*. Also hidden in the credits, as executive producer, is Lars Von Trier, winner of the Palm D'Or at Cannes 2011.

