



DALLAS BUYERS CLUB

**Autumn
Season
2014**

Release: 2013

Cert (UK): 15

Language: English

Runtime: 117 mins

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée

Writers: Craig Borten, Melisa Wallack

Cinematographer: Yves Bélanger

Cast: Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner, Jared Leto



Matthew McConaughey has undergone a massive change in critical approval to become one of Hollywood's most acclaimed actors. And for Dallas Buyers Club the massive change was of a most personal nature as he inhabits the part of Ron Woodroof. Radical weight-loss is the most obvious change but McConaughey has turned the notion of the victim narrative inside out with a wholly

convincing portrayal of a bitter but unbreakable spirit.

Ron Woodroof (McConaughey) is pure Texan trailer-trash, an oil company electrician trading former rodeo glories for cheap sex, out of his head on crappy coke, heedless to his declining health until a chance work accident lands him in hospital. He awakens to the news he has 29 days to live. He is HIV positive, a diagnosis he at first refutes then defies. Remember that this is 1985 and HIV had only recently become known. Ron not only has to cope with the disease but the prejudices of society. More important, however, is who and what he becomes.

We soon realise Woodroof is in possession of an agile mind, quick to decipher mystifying science and skewer hospital bluster. But by no means is he reformed. In coming to terms with his condition, Woodroof gains an unlikely guide in Jared Leto's urbane transsexual Rayon, another AIDS victim refusing to be victimised.

Both McConaughey and Leto won an Oscar for their performance and the film has amassed some 76 awards. Although released early in 2014 it was deemed too good to miss and may well be a welcome boost after last week's Miss Violence.