



## BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

### **HARVEST (15)**

Director: Athena Rachel Tsangari

Starring: Caleb Landry Jones, Harry Melling, Rosy McEwen, Arinzé Kene

UK/Germany/Greece, 2023, 2 hours 11 minutes, English

Over seven hallucinatory days, a village with no name disappears.

Although the film is mentioned to have no defined time and place, this drama similarly represents the medieval period, England. With the disruption of several newcomers onto their land, a rural village is at threat with an entirely new way of life. This recent project of Tsangari's has been noted as "*a multifaceted reflection on man's relationship to the land, rich in atmospheric and thematic resonance.*" **Film at Lincoln Center**

Medieval farming was a job with no rest. Year after year land was handled with care and patience from its farmers. In the eight months before the harvest (usually taking place in August) jobs such as Haymaking, sheep-shearing and weeding of crops were practised each day to prepare for such an event. Relying on weather, land had to be protected and well looked after for twelve months of the year. Twice a year, during August and September the whole family would take to the fields to gather grains. This sense of community and togetherness is reflected in *Harvest* in a joint effort the village has to adhere to their protective nature.

Athina Rachel Tsangari took inspiration from Jim Crace's 2013 novel, *Harves'*. The novel explores childhood friends Walter and Charles, encountering external threats alongside tensions rising inside the village between a community of workers and families facing the invasion and trauma of modernity.

Tsangari was keen to produce an adaptation that would reflect reckoning; she stated that this is everything that *Harvest* represents. It should be noted that, "*the future is not part of the story - it will happen off screen, in a world we are not meant to see.*" Due to this, *Harvest* is a film that allows viewers to feel fully immersed into the world in front of them. The very nature of the story line, paired with the unpredictable Scottish weather on set performs as visual immersion. In an interview an idea similar presented that "*Tsangari's approach is viewed as a form of 'chaos' that enriched the storytelling process.*" **Senses of Cinema**

Notes compiled by Floss Johnston

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### **BRING THEM DOWN**

Barry Keoghan (*Saltburn, The Banshees of Inisherin*) and Christopher Abbott (*Poor Things*) give terrific performances in this blood-soaked drama.

### **VERMIGLIO**

Unfolding against the stunning backdrop of the Italian Alps, Maura Delpero's award-winning period drama is a hauntingly beautiful tale of family life torn apart.