

## Feedback for *Fallen Leaves*

Quirky, funny, stylistically interesting. Loved it!

Very Finnish. Tender and funny. Trademark Kaurismäki.

Unequivocally as this was a truly exceptional film IMO - (in my opinion ) painful - tender and brutal all at the same time - the tenacious persistence of the female lead and the unrelenting conditions of labour at the hard edge of Super- exploitation in Helsinki not usually seen in the representation of what is taken as a high quality welfare society such as Finland - the undereducated or immigrant labour in crude demanding roles and occasionally in boss conditions. Witty and loving relations prevail.

I thoroughly enjoyed this romcom with its desert dry humour and offbeat characters and plot. Who needs a yak when you've got a pooch like that in the cast? Wishing you a very happy Christmas and a healthy and happy new year 2025.

A comedy? Subtle! I think there was a clever use of even more depressed/dull/unemotional people providing the background to this couple's unlikely story. I really enjoyed it, not sure why.

Loved the film...understated acting but still unpredictable. Great soundtrack.

Subtle and nuanced with dry humour. It succeeded in drawing us in with empathy for both protagonists. A good choice for a pre-Christmas screening :).

A touching love story about how a couple meet against the odds. It is beautifully shot and depicts the harsh realities of daily life in Helsinki in mid-winter. Under the drudgery it shows how communities come together with humour.

I felt the film was trying too hard and failing at being arty with the actors performing too many deep soulful looks into the distance. It was all a bit dull and depressing. Thank you! and a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year to you all!

This film has been very well received by others but its slow-moving pace and lack of action failed to engage me. A short film that felt very long.

On my first viewing I thought I nodded off but I must have imagined it, as this time I was definitely awake throughout and there were no narrative gaps in my recollection of the first viewing. Loved the trademark use of primary colours. Especially the scene when two of the women characters were having a drink. One in a red dress had a blue drink which was reversed with her companion. Have always loved the director's understated gentle droll humour....and the dog lived happily ever after.

Moving, sympathetic edgy and much the mixture as before (but typically for Aki his last one was described by him as his last film ever. a typically obtuse Kaurismäki remark). Compelling storytelling with skilful use of silences but he manages to relate a story and create characters and their attitudes by light and low-key touches. The current events (war in Ukraine) features on the radio not immediately relevant to the story but added a sardonic backdrop to the human drama. Cast excellent, one of Aki's best. BTW the Society are to be thanked for the lavish party which was much appreciated.

I was really looking forward to this film but was rather underwhelmed. It was gentle and there was some dry humour but overall, I found it depressing and I realised I was not that interested in the fate of the two main characters.

I felt quite a miserable watch for Christmas, even though it was a love story.

Outstanding. A pleasure from the very outset to the last scene and happy ending! More of this director's delights please. And thanks for a wonderful and generous after party!

It is very rare that I don't like a film at all. May be the fact that I expected a happy film for our Christmas film had an impact on how I felt. The reviews describe it as a feelgood and delightful comedy. For me it was a very gloomy pessimistic film. Everything is gloomy even the words of the songs in the karaoke bar. The news of the war in Ukraine doesn't help as it reminds us of the true reality of the world and each time she puts on the radio we're no longer in a fiction but brought back to a terrible reality. As the couple seems to get closer and finally there is a glimmer of hope, Holappa gets knocked over by a train and falls into a coma! Really! Some critics described the end of the film as happy! But is it? As they leave the hospital, we see Ansa walking at full speed with her dog while he struggles to follow her on crutches! Not a good omen for a healthy supportive relationship!

This film gave me a much greater insight into life for those who have so little financial support. It was full of humanity and featured disappointment and hope in equal measure. The desire to find someone to be yourself with and to love and be loved by, is the basis of fulfilment in many peoples' lives.

Full of Finnish stereotypes, amusing in places but overall, rather bleak. Maybe more entertaining if you are a Finn?

This film felt so fresh and different tonally, partly because of the suggested quirkiness of the Finnish but also because of the conceit of setting a film in the present day and seemingly, in the past all at the same time. It was strange but compelling to have news of the war in Ukraine every time the radio was turned but similarly to witness dated fashion, supermarkets, interiors and machinery. The film really did give us a glimpse into a very particular milieu which I didn't feel I'd seen before. I was pleased to see the two lonely and uncertain young people find their way together at the end of the film. Their lives seemed tough and yet the film managed to be witty, entertaining and uplifting despite this.

Moving and gentle film beautifully directed. Was it my imagination or did the woman look more attractive as the film and the love affair progress. Films from Finland are so subtle and really play with the emotions.

The quirky, deadpan humour simply works! And after so many mishaps, a delightful sense of an ending. Also loved the support of the women when she is fired from the grocery store. Magnificent.

Sad lives played for laughs. I always think that cinema has to be executed at a higher level than TV drama, not sure this succeeded.

I thought it was a bit gloomy but a good antidote to the Christmas overkill everywhere else! Thanks for organising.

Slow, quiet and beautifully acted.

An atmospheric, tender film filled with pathos and understated humour. Against a backdrop of greyness, hard graft and apparent despair there was a lightness and dare one say hope. A most engaging film.

Enjoyed this slow burn love story. A lot was said with few words.

Bresson with a couple of jokes thrown in?

Very warm and I think, eventually a very hopeful film. Wonderful actors.

It's many years since I've seen an Aki Kaurismäki movie and this was a fine example of his distinctive (and possibly inimitable?) style. A wonderful colour palette and eye which makes even an old factory feel like an oil painting. And a warm and off-the-wall sense of humour which provides an antidote to the grimness of characters working zero-hour contracts in a snowy post-industrial wasteland. The Ukraine war in the news provided a topical and disturbing backdrop to it all. Lots of great movie references, mostly to Dr Zhivago, or so it seemed to me. A charming love story which ticked all the boxes!

Offbeat and entertaining. It seemed to be poking fun at some national characteristics!

Bleak with a few laughs. We're fortunate to live in Richmond! Thank you to all involved in the Christmas party: excellent.

A puzzling mixture of timelines: 2024 radio reports about Ukraine, film poster for Brief Encounter, no screens or mobile phones but the girl had a phone number. Were these people living in poverty and isolation immigrants?

I really enjoyed the deadpan humour - just wish I'd been able to understand the Finnish.

I may well have rated it Excellent but I missed the ending for the very good cause of helping out with the party preparations. I'll look out for it at the BFI or on TV. A very happy Christmas to all at RFS.

An excellent film that I would never have seen if I was not a member of the Film Club - a great choice, thank you. Sensitive performances, beautifully filmed showing a very poor side to Helsinki, the film felt old fashioned in many ways, apart from the radio news each day about the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Though the film seemed to portray a Helsinki that the Finnish Tourist Board would probably not want us to see, I think it was a really impactful film and highlighted the dreariness of everyday life, with an underlying message that there is someone for everyone out there. Nice happy ending.

A gentle, sensitive and somewhat poignant film but humorous at the same time. Minimal dialogue but the deadpan irony of the main character's best friend was funny.

I enjoyed the film. I felt it was highly stylised, which was rather unusual. The simplistic roles and ill-defined time setting were intriguing. It felt very different to more mainstream art films.

Lots of the director's characteristically droll humour. I also enjoyed the various film references and posters.

Excellent music - and we can forgive *Falling Leaves* becoming *Fallen Leaves*. A study in loneliness, life, and the happenstance of finding a partner for most: they met, he/she looked like a reasonable bet but it wasn't a grand passion.

Held my attention and even a happyish ending - well chosen. Prior to the party possibly not the film to show a character with a drink problem.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL. We really like the director. How can you not like lines like (at the hospital): What is the patient's first name? I don't know, what is your relationship? I'm his sister.

A touching film nicely acted by the principals. A happy ending? Well, we could all hope so. Merry Christmas. Thanks to all who organised the party!

I enjoyed this sympathetic and humorous portrayal of two lonely people looking for companionship, having very much appreciated the previous screenings of *Le Havre* and *The Other Side of Hope*. However, I felt that Ansa's dog made a more reliable companion than Holappa! The regular radio news bulletins on the invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops were a worrying reminder that Finland shares a border with Russia.

Although it had comedic moments the overall context in which the action takes place was rather depressing.