

The Blue Caftan feedback from members

A pictorial film with intense use of close up and great lighting. I rate Lubna Azabal as the best among good actors for her veracity through so many moods. Salé has been through history a kind of rebel town in Morocco. Director Maryam Tuzani may have chosen it as an appropriate stage for a script disturbing social traditions. She may have chosen it to contrast the white and sunny Medina against the closed-door intimacy of crafting and love.

A well thought out film. Very good on atmosphere, particularly in differentiating between scenes indoors and those in the street. Photography good. And also good at slowly revealing the attraction between the two lovers, and the relationship with the wife. All acting good. Well chosen.

It was interesting to see a film set in Morocco. The three main characters gave strong and sensitive performances, Mina coping well with her husband's repressed homosexuality and failing health. Halim's skill as the master tailor was impressive.

By the time the *Blue Caftan* ended, I felt as if I had made it, stitch by stitch. It was a shame the wife never wore it when she was alive, as it was so beautiful. Achingly slow at times, the film had its moments of pathos, humour and intense eroticism. The background calls to prayer, noises from the streets and the music were actors in themselves. Having worked and lived in Morocco in the early 1970's I felt the film depicted it well.

It's an entrancing film. The acting is subtle and competent and the story engaging. I particularly liked the technical aspects of dress making and embroidery (not something I have any knowledge or experience of, other than a brief attempt at petit point when I was a boy). Perhaps the scenes at the men's baths were more explicit than necessary; not offensively so but a bit obvious. I did find the musical soundtrack too intrusive. Overall, one of the society's best offerings.

This was an extraordinary film. Huge depth of feeling was depicted with subtlety and sensitivity. The characters were portrayed with great dignity and also humour despite the sadness of their situation. It was a tragic story in so many ways, yet the film was both engaging and uplifting. I will certainly look out for other films by this director.

My thoughts at the end of this was 'Long and Dull'. However, there were moments, such as the joy of dancing at the window and the use of the blue caftan at the end. I think that it could have been half the length and I would then have rated it higher.

A moving sensual ode to love in its many guises. The three leads were terrific.

At times I found the film was cringeingly slow - no doubt a technique to convey Hamil's emotional conflict and turmoil. But overall, it was a compact and moving story, putting a spotlight on two contradictory kinds of genuine love. Luckily, Mina's sparkling eyes and cheeky sense of humour and the gorgeous fabrics and food, saved us from the gloom of Hamil's tortured introspection.

The love was beautifully expressed between all three main characters. A very moving finale of the blue caftan being used as a burial gown. And then the contentment between the widower and his apprentice. Some of the flat interior shots reminded me strongly of Dutch 17th century domestic scenes - I suppose it was the black and white tiles.

This was a truly touching poignant film. I have been recommending it to all my friends as it is available for £2.50 on Amazon Prime.

Enjoyed the slow pace, close up of intimate situations and the strong sense of love. Predictable but beautiful ending.

A poignant and moving story, with outstanding performances from the leads.

A brilliantly acted and moving film.

What a beautiful and tender love story with so many different, complex and interesting themes raised in this film. I have found most of the films this season very depressing but this one kept my attention throughout and I dearly hope next season will be more of a mixed emotional bag with not so many slow, bleak and depressing films.

Interesting scenario, well shot but the story wasn't strong or engaging enough.

A simple but touching story, beautifully done.

So moving to see relatively simple everyday working lives in almost 'real time'. How brave were the three main actors in taking on those challenging roles in that society! They were totally convincing. Some peaceful resolution in the end was very satisfying to experience: the young assistant's maturing, the wife's love and understanding and willingness to bravely bring the three together and the husband's bold final choice for the blue caftan.

In some ways a slow-moving film but this balanced pace matched the subject well.

Absorbing and touching.

I thought it good but it was predictable. I knew what was going to happen from the beginning (it was oddly, as if I had written the script) and therefore found it over long. However, it was a touching portrayal of love between the three of them.

A nicely told story but not one of my standout films of this season.

Beautiful film but maybe too self-consciously beautiful, I could probably have done with fewer shots of his sensitive fingers stitching gold thread or walking down the street looking pained. Three spectacular performances though and the cinematography of the last walk to the cemetery was gorgeous.

Its heart was in the right place but it was so, so slow and thus only so so.

It was a very good story – delicate and compassionate but I found it a bit long and a bit too slow. Excellent ending though.

Long, slow but involving, beautifully shot and very subtle. I felt my appreciation of the film was a little dulled as it seems to be the fourth very sad film in a row? Thank you for your hard work.

Slow and too long for the relatively simple plot with few characters and limited variation of scenes.

This was a very sensitive film and was extremely well- acted. A very powerful message: "Don't be afraid to love". A great choice- thanks.

Delectable.

A surprising love story, developing quite unexpectedly. Such well-placed humour, amidst the trauma. Mina was particularly brilliant. Beautiful.

It is a good film, it's a great film, the themes tied in brilliantly with the characters, the plot and its pacing. Just to speed things up, even if we can't have a car chase in such films any chance of a camel chase?

Beautiful film, exquisitely shot that explores the main themes in a very tender and slow way. The film explores the complexities of emotions between the husband and wife, the repressed homosexual love and coping with death. The final scene of the dead wife being carried in the blue caftan by the husband and apprentice tailor is a very strong and moving image. Thanks - great film.

This is the film I had been waiting to see this season and it didn't disappoint. Beautifully acted, particularly by the husband and wife and a touching, complicated love story, set in a world where tolerance of homosexuality is questionable to say the least. I'm so glad Mina was sent off in the blue caftan - it seemed the perfect ending after its creation had embroidered itself throughout the story.

A quiet but absorbing film. Mina did indeed deserve the beautiful caftan. Wonder what the lady who ordered it thought about that?

I found watching the film a real test of endurance but over the last few days I have found myself thinking about it quite a lot and decided I was being unkind. It was well acted and a very moving story. It needed to be slow to portray what it set out to do.

I really liked this beautiful film, it was exquisitely shot and the leads provided powerfully compelling and moving portrayals.

Blue Caftan - a tender, sensitive and thoughtful film about three good-natured people dealing with difficult situations and confronting tragedy with stoicism and even, at times, humour.

The Blue Caftan.....I enjoyed the film and my vote is Good...However we have now had several films where someone diesany chance of happy endings?

I enjoyed the film and the acting and the scenes. I found some of the plot and the characters to be a little bit convenient for the story. When it is said at one point 'nobody wants to learn this trade' and he does not use sewing machines then yes, in real life nobody would want to go into it. However, the scenes and acting were enjoyable.

Found the storyline very engaging. Very interested in embroidery so that was an unexpected and enjoyable aspect.

A very sensitive and intimate film showing how different kinds of love can co-exist if everyone involved shows tolerance and acceptance of others.

In good cinema, sorrow/suffering tend to make for better viewing than pleasure/joy. This film combined both. It started well, without the normally obligatory setting-up scenes of the medina. The couple's business and professional relationship were succinctly presented, the apprentice introduced, and the status and details of the craft explained. The homosexual overtones were slowly and subtly introduced. In the shop, Mina dealt largely with female clients, "taking no nonsense from uppity and demanding customers" (Programme Notes); later, we saw her in her home situation, similarly self-assured. An Arabic-speaking audience might have been extremely surprised to discover that she had proposed marriage to Halim and above all at her comment that his homosexual tendencies could have "brought shame on the family" – a phrase normally used exclusively about women. Mina's innate dignity is emphasised as her illness progresses, as is Halim's affectionate respect for her. The final scene (the only setting-up scene in the entire film) showing Halim and Youssef taking the caftan-clad corpse to the graveyard indicates the extent to which they have broken with local traditions – no accompanying group of mourners. A quick search online was unable to establish the location of these shots of "the oldest medina in Morocco". According to Wikipedia, that is in Fez, but the shots appeared to show sea in the background. Fez is 410m above sea level. One linguistic detail: the film's English title "The Blue Caftan" did not entirely match the French title "Le Bleu du Caftan", possibly best translated as "The Caftan's Blue Colour". The film's German title "Das Blau des Kaftans" has the same meaning. I cannot comment on the Arabic.

While I loved seeing the craftsmanship of the maalem at work and enjoyed the rich vibrant colours, I didn't find the film that engaging. It felt too long and bordered on boring. There were far too many shots of lingering looks to the point I actually wanted more dialogue. Also, it felt that too many scenes were set in the local bath house. We got the message pretty quickly and it could have been half an hour shorter without losing the storyline. The performances however were all good. Both Mina and Youssef subtly portrayed the sadness of their marriage and yet expressed a deep love for each other. And the film made very clear what it must feel like to be gay in a country where homosexuality is forbidden. For me the best part was when the three main characters all accepted their roles and circumstances and were having fun together, before Mina died.

Sensuous, compassionate and tolerant, marvellously composed and beautifully acted, this film expresses repressed desires and longings and also points the struggle the few remaining artisans have when faced with mechanisation of their trade. On the one hand, being rooted in the past, on the other finding it increasingly difficult to stay there. An excellent choice. I recall Saleh Bakri (the maalam/master tailor in this film) also excellent in the role of the son in the very good *Wajib*, which you showed in 2017.

Excellent film! It was subtle and sensitive and had wonderful shots of the faces of the principal characters. The evolution of their relationships was cleverly and compassionately portrayed and the characters had immense dignity.

Enjoyed it as I settled into the pace.

A beautiful tender love story that pulled at your heart strings. Excellent choice, thank you.

What a wonderful film, showing how people stay decent and noble despite not being able to show their true feelings openly, due to societal and political restrictions. And wonderful footage of the beautiful needle and embroidery skills of the men - amazing! An inspirational film!