

Member/Guest feedback for *The Straight Story*

Alvin Straight showed amazing determination in driving his lawnmower 240 miles at about five miles per hour with the intention of reconciling with his estranged brother. On his journey he passed through some wonderful landscapes and met some generous and helpful strangers. It was an inspiring film to end the season!

Gentle and amusing, telling of a brother's love.

A wonderful film which was sensitive and insightful. The cinematography was superb. A thought-provoking film!

It was great! I'd give it Excellent. Thanks for all the films this year xx Have a good summer.

Too long, too dull and whilst the characters were nicely drawn, the film didn't engage me enough - after days on the road I really didn't care whether Alvin made it to Wisconsin or not. If his object was to see his brother before it was too late why on earth refuse the offer of a lift there when his mower broke. Unless of course the brother was just a pretext for Alvin to reconnect with his independence out on the road before his frailties stopped him. The film lost any credibility for me at the mention of "the trenches of WWII" - very sloppy writing.

It's a Poor from me. Not a patch on David Lynch's other films. There were occasional flashes of the surreal but not enough to make up for the overall cheesiness.

An uplifting film about kindness, resilience and perhaps the joy of being.

A feast for the eyes, ears and soul.

A bit of whimsy I think on DL's part but not without wit and charm - he's toned down his theme of non-conforming uncanny individuals and I wonder if he's added a new category of 'good hearted moral souls' a neat antidote to caricature American baddies aka weirdos - It has a truth about ageing buried in this road movie somewhere. I loved the soundtrack possibly in my opinion the best thing about it alongside the cinematography.

What a lovely film. Funny, unusual and a beautifully paced, contemplative story. Alvin was a great character, showing quiet determination and decency and a strong sense of purpose. Having seen *Eraserhead* and *Blue Velvet* years ago, I would never have imagined that David Lynch would make a film like this. Terrific.

We really liked this film, finding it showed human nature at its best. Kind, thoughtful, never sentimental.

A very tender and meditative story.

Most notable for its meaningful lack of dialogue.

An excellent choice and the best 'journey' movie I have seen so far. Believable that he was invited only to camp in the garden as the wardrobe mistress was presumably called upon to supply just one shirt for the entire journey of more than 5 weeks. English subtitles would have been helpful for most of the audience whose comprehension of the Southern US accented English was limited. This was fairly frequently completely unintelligible. This might be something the committee considers for every movie in future...

Thank you for another terrific year! *The Straight Story* gets a Good from me. An unusual David Lynch film in that, as the title says, it was a very straight story. No menace, no underlying existential crisis, no weirdness! A bit too straight for me...

A good film, well made. I was engaged throughout, the others felt it a bit long, dragging at the end with too much 'montage' and tinkly music that felt a bit unnecessary.

I enjoyed this film - quite charming.

It was a good film.

Thank you, a wonderful series of films. This film is rated Good. Would have been Excellent but I found the dialogue very hard to hear.

Could have been an excellent night out at the movies if I could have understood the dialogue. Please screen US films with sub-titles in future, if possible.

Excellent - a great film to end the season!

Good - I thought the soundtrack was excellent.

I score the film good for its spare but meaningful dialogue, matching the simple but meaningful journey through the vast landscape of the cornfields - quite moving. The lead character's eye movements were mesmerising! Some of the soundtrack I found jarring.

This film was beautiful so it's definitely an Excellent for me. The narrative pacing, tender music, stunning colours and landscape were mesmerising. I loved the quiet, almost gentle way Rose's terrible story slips out, the distraught woman in yet another collision with a deer looking to the empty horizon and asking "where do they come from?!" And then, as she leaves, shouting "and I love deer!" The sweet bundle of sticks the pregnant runaway leaves. The heartbreaking war stories in the bar and the incredible score. I loved the storytelling's quietened rhythm. I didn't know Richard Farnsworth before this film but I found him magnetic and just beautiful. And I've always loved Sissy Spacek and she was perfect in this. And all the better for being such a departure from what we usually expected from David Lynch and a true story. But I think my absolute favourite part was the end. Made me laugh and cry at the same time. Thank you so much RFS. 🙏

I didn't find it as profound as when I saw it on its original release. I loved the score though, a mix of optimism and melancholy. Also, the shots of the open spaces. Many thanks for all your hard work behind the scenes, it's much appreciated.

A simple story well told. A fitting swan song to a terrific season.

I loved the simplicity of this movie and would rate it Excellent - great film to end the season.

I would give it a Good. The cinematography was lovely and really captured the mid-west landscape. I loved the slow pace It struck me as a film about listening, a skill which seems to be disappearing.

A little slow but a rather quiet, charming film. Quite inspirational when one considers it is a true story! All characters were well acted. Enjoyable for the final film of the season.

Excellent film, loved every minute.

I loved the story, particularly for the fact that it was a true one! But the pace, the gentleness of Alvin and the acting by Richard Farnsworth and Sissy Spacek gave the film a memorable quality. The big skies of Iowa and Wisconsin, the references to farming and nature and the light were beautiful. Very much enjoyed and a nice surprise as not really a fan of David Lynch.

Most enjoyable film to end the season. Definitely had a feel-good factor.

I enjoyed it. It's a Good

We give 1.5 for The Straight Story. Great Film

Beautiful, wise, tender film, David Lynch at his kindest and least sarky, gloriously filmed with the dust turning everything into molten gold. Stunningly acted with a cast including many Lynch regulars. A wonderful film to end the season.

Second time round it was as delightful as the first.

Thank you very much I loved the film.

A gentle but very engaging film that kept me involved from start to finish.

A fine end to the season. Nice to see the good side of the USA.

Dry enjoyable film - and for once it had a happy ending!

It was a sensitive and touching film of a road trip from Iowa to Wisconsin based on a true story. It is very sad that David Lynch is no longer with us. Thank you.

Am thankful that David Lynch had the courage and stubbornness, (not unlike the character of the protagonist!) to make this film. It was a timely reminder too of the unity of family and how often we place distances (geographically and emotionally) and the sacrifices that are made to close them.

Whimsical and rather puerile. There were scenes which need development and dialogue that also we could have seen more of to make it a decent film but they were edited. It really wasn't very interesting.

A great film.

Usually, David Lynch's films leave me cold and this is the only one of his I actually like. A road movie with heart, yet with a couple of the director's stock in trade surrealist touches (I think of the deer looking on where he has set camp), this gives us plenty of thought as we all near the final resting place we are invariably heading for. Thank you for the season. I have mentioned this before: I - and I am sure I am not the only one - am suffering from deteriorating hearing. Hence, a request once again for subtitles for English language movies.

An interesting film: sensitive, funny and also made some very serious points about family relationships. Thank you to all in the committee for another great year of film.