



[The Artist](#)

Screened at [Cornerhouse, Manchester](#)

Reviewed by [Anne Ryan](#) January

This film opened to such universal praise I was almost afraid to go and see it for myself. Tipped for Oscar success – it has moved strong reviewers to tears of joy – could it really be this good? The short answer is yes!

It is easy to think that a French made silent film in black and white could be a festival success, but **The Artist** has gained popular success as well as critical plaudits. And the reason is simple, The Artist reminds us of the magic of cinema.

Michel Hazanavicius has directed a story in the tradition of *Singing in the Rain* and *A Star is Born* about the impact of sound on Hollywood, and in paying tribute to this lost world he has created something new, fresh and utterly beautiful.

It stars Berenice Bejo, as the rising ingenue and Jean Dujardin, as the established star; surrounded by Hollywood actors who look as if they could have stepped out of the 1930s – John Goodman, James Cromwell, Malcolm McDowell and Penelope Ann Miller.

I had previously seen, and enjoyed silent films with wonderful musical scores, but I had always been conscious that this was a relic of another age, *The Artist* is a film that is not strange or old - it is like any other contemporary release, except it is much, much better.

