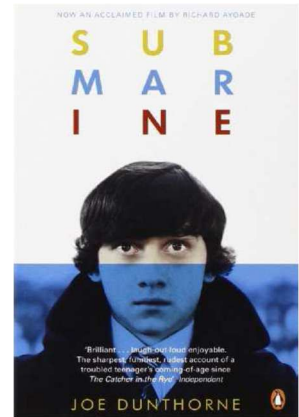


Submarine

Director: Richard Ayoade
2011 (95')



Oliver Tate wants to be admired and popular at school and when naughty Jordana Bevan takes an interest in him, he's determined to take his chance. Meanwhile, his parents' already rocky relationship is threatened when his mother's ex-boyfriend moves in next door. Oliver makes some unorthodox plans to ensure that his parents stay together and that Jordana still loves him.

"...is only sometimes outright funny, but Submarine always maintains a wry, melancholic wit. It's a very winning debut by Ayoade, who impresses mightily."
The Independent

*"Richard Ayoade's Submarine feels like the most refreshing, urgent and original debut the British film industry has seen in years."*The Telegraph

"Writer-director Richard Ayoade has the knack. A fresh and inventive cinematic voice, he's taken a subject that's been beaten half to death and brought it miraculously to life in his smart and funny debut feature, Submarine." Los Angeles Times

Vocabulary and expressions:

A vigil: A period when people remain quietly in a place, especially at night, when, for example, they are praying or remembering someone who has recently died.

To wank: To masturbate (offensive term).

To be gagging for something/to do something: If you say that someone is gagging for/to do something you are emphasizing that they want it or want to do it very much (informal).

I know you're all gagging to get to biology, but don't rush.

To cherish something: To value something very, very much.

Scaly: If someone has scaly skin, for example, the skin has dry areas and bits

come off.

You've got scaly hands.

Of sorts: Used to describe something which is not a typical or good example of something.

It's an achievement of sorts.

To hop in: To get in a car (informal)

Hop right in there and make yourself comfortable.

Cocky: Used to describe someone who is confident in a way that is unpleasant and sometimes rude.

Don't get cocky!

To row: To argue, especially loudly.

They don't even row. They just have discussions.

To have an affair: To have a sexual relationship with someone, especially a secret one.

It seems pretty clear that mum is having an affair.

A bloke: Informal word used for a man.

He's just some bloke I stole your mother from.

Cracking: Extremely good (informal).

This is cracking, love.

Daft: Silly or stupid.

Don't be daft!

To be down in the dumps: To feel very low or depressed.

He's a bit down in the dumps at the moment.

More from Los Angeles Times review:

Writer-director Richard Ayoade has the knack. A fresh and inventive cinematic voice, he's taken a subject that's been beaten half to death and brought it miraculously to life in his smart and funny debut feature, "Submarine." Based on a novel by Joe Dunthorne, "Submarine" is not exactly the first film willing to explore the coming of age of a teenage boy. But by grafting delightful cinematic wit and style and a fondness for the energy of the French New Wave onto the tale of a 15-year-old taking on life in a town in Wales, Ayoade makes us feel like it's never been told before. Which is exactly how it feels to young Oliver Tate (Craig Roberts).

Oliver, as he is quick to tell us himself in the film's rapid-fire, wall-to-wall voice-over, is an earnest, self-aware young person with a quirky sensibility, a fondness for reading the dictionary and a habit of thinking about situations

more than he should.

.... What makes "Submarine" especially successful is that under its clever comedy, genuine emotions are at play. Simultaneous with his inevitable attempt to hook up with the girl of his dreams, Oliver is trying to save his parents' floundering marriage, parallel tasks that end up evoking all the bittersweet colors of life.

.... Films without number have tried their hand at teen romance, but "Submarine" is one of the best at capturing the uncapturable frenzy of adolescent infatuation, the awkwardness, angst and anxiety that Oliver confronts in his fitful attempts at being "the best boyfriend in the world." ... "Submarine" is not only filled with cinematic references, including a joke about Carl Theodor Dreyer's silent "Passion of Joan of Arc" (really), but it is also made with so much intrinsically cinematic verve that the biggest compliment you can pay it is to say that it must be experienced to be fully appreciated.

Though this is British filmmaker Ayoade's first feature, he has a background in both television comedy and music videos. His visual sense, aided by cinematographer Erik Wilson, is superb; his use of music (including an Andrew Hewitt score and songs by Alex Turner of Arctic Monkeys) is engaging; and his work with his fine actors is excellent across the board. Debut films come and debut films go, but "Submarine" is one to remember.

By Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times Film Critic

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