

REEL SUSPECTS

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PRINTER FRIENDLY

LOVE ETERNAL

Adapted from “Loving the Dead”
by Kei Oishi

A film by Brendan Muldowney

94 min, Ireland, 2013, English, Colour, DCP - Digital 5.1

LOGLINE

“LOVE ETERNAL” centres on a damaged young man who after shutting himself away for ten years is forced to venture out into a world that he no longer understands.

LONG SYNOPSIS

When Ian Harding’s mother dies, he is left all alone in the world at the age of 26. Unable to understand basic human emotions, he takes the decision to end it all in a snowy forest clearing but through a bizarre chance encounter, he discovers the lifeless body of a schoolgirl. Something about her, and her suicide note, resonates deeply within him, and Ian decides to bring her body home. He sleeps peacefully by her side and for the first time his eyes are opened to the possibility of love and a reason to live. He buries her body under a cherry blossom tree at the end of his garden.

Searching for an opportunity to experience the same emotions, Ian manipulates an encounter with Tina, a young suicidal housewife, whom he meets over the internet. However, his anticipation of another body is thwarted by the housewife’s initially unsuccessful suicide attempt before she eventually dies. Enthralled by an awakened passion, he finds peace in her lifeless company and discovers a burgeoning understanding of the complexities of love. He slowly begins to engage with the outside world, until once again he is forced to bury her body deep below the cherry blossom tree.

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Ian then meets Naomi, a beautiful young woman whose son's life was taken in a car crash. Due to a strong bond created through what seems a mutual, nihilistic outlook on existence, he is finally able to open his heart to a living human being. Having experienced both sides of life and death, Naomi teaches Ian a philosophy that holds hope at its core. Enraptured with this new outlook on life and with her, he steps out of his shell. But as their relationship draws more intimate, will he find that he's able to deal with the true emotional force of love when it comes from a living, breathing person?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I first read Kei Oishi's book 'In Love with the Dead' I was struck by the empathy he had for the lead character.

Here was a story that dealt with the darkest of subjects – suicide, necrophilia and grief. Subjects that could be emotive or exploitative. And yet, by dealing with them in such a simple, almost childlike, way, the story felt honest and non-judgmental.

There was also lightness, a sense of the absurd, which gave the story a black sense of humour. My job was to try and preserve these elements which I hope I have achieved.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Brendan is a graduate of Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design (The National Film School in Ireland). His debut feature film SAVAGE, funded by the Irish Film Board and produced by SP Films, received 6 Irish Film & Television Award (IFTA) nominations in 2010, and Brendan also received a Rising Star nomination from the Irish Film Board/Irish Film & Television Award (IFTA).

He has just completed his second feature film "Love Eternal", presently in post-production, with the award winning Irish company – Fastnet Films ("Kisses", "Colony", "Nothing Personal").

He has written and directed nine award-winning short films. "Innocence" won the Tiernan McBride – Best Irish Short Film Award at the Galway Film Fleadh 2002 among many others, while "The Ten Steps" has won twelve awards throughout the world including Best Short at the Sitges Film Festival 2004.

He has been involved in development as writer/director with the Irish Film Board on the feature projects "14/88 aka Hate", "Love Eternal", "Savage" and "Soul Broke".

He participated in EAVE 2008 as writer/director with "Love Eternal", and participated in EAVE 2010 as a writer/director with "HATE".

CAST

Robert de Hoog
Pollyanna McIntosh
Amanda Ryan
Emma Eliza Regan

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Aiden Condron
Declan Conlon
Daniel Reardon
Tom Leick
Frédéric Frenay
Patrick Hastert

CREW

Directed by Brendan Muldowny
Written by Brendan Muldowny from the Japanese novel "Loving the Dead" by Kei Oishi.
Produced by FASTNET FILMS
Producer: Conor Barry
Production Designer: Owen Power
Director of photography: Tom Comerford
Editing by Mairead Mclvor
Music by Bart Westerlaken
Sound : Ingo Dumlich / Mike Butcher