



# ALBATROSS

Spring  
Season  
2012

**Release:** 2011

**Cert (UK):** 15

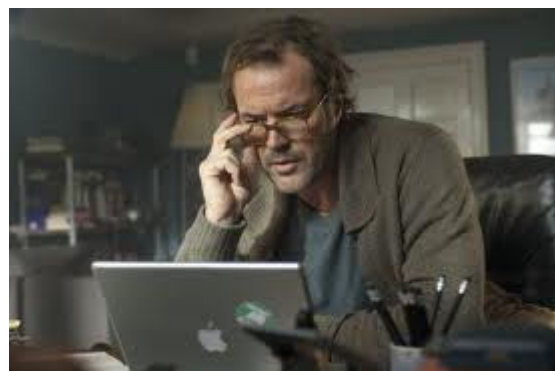
**Runtime:** 90 minutes

**Director:** Nial MacCormick

**Cast:** Sebastian Kock, Julia Ormond, Jessica Brown-Findlay, Felicity Jones

Filmed with a great eye for scenery on the Isle of Man, the movie eddies around the barely functional Fischer family and its cliffside hotel on the south coast of England.

At the centre is Beth (Felicity Jones), a bookish teenager preparing to go to Oxford. Above her, in the attic, her ruffled father (Sebastian Koch) struggles to replicate the success of a long-ago novel, while his bitter wife (Julia Ormond) rarely misses an opportunity to punish him for the loss of her mediocre acting career.



Into this sad household comes Emelia (Jessica Brown-Findlay), a wayward 17-year-old and aspiring wordsmith. Echoing the wild-child-by-the-seaside vibe of David Leland's gutsy 1987 drama, *'Wish You Were Here'*, Tamzin Rafn's script makes Emelia the engine of everyone's transformation.

The performers, however — and especially Jessica Brown-Findlay, who was cast before her role as Lady Sybil on *'Downton Abbey'* - inhabit their characters so naturally that the clang of cliché is appreciably muted.

Weighted as much by past glory as by familial tragedy, this gentle ensemble piece forgives sexual stumbles and favours restraint over melodrama. Niall MacCormick's direction, while unfocused, locates a sweet centre in the bonding of the two young girls, effortlessly capturing the way unexpected friendship, like first love, can completely alter the look of the world.