



THE PAST (Le passé)

Autumn
Season
2014

Release: 2013

Cert (UK): 12A

Language: French and Persian

Runtime: 130 mins

Director & writer: Asghar Farhadi

Cinematographer: Mahmoud Kalari

Cast: Bérénice Bejo, Tahar Rahim, Ali Mosaffa

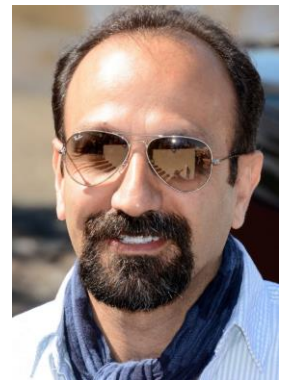


In this study of fractured lives, we follow Ahmad as he returns to Paris to finalise his divorce from his French wife Marie. He finds her now living with Samir and the children from their previous marriages. Ahmad is thrown into this maelstrom of complex relationships...but is there still more going on than he realises at first glance?

This is the sixth film Asghar Farhadi has written and directed and his fame has risen along the way. We have now shown the last three - 'About Elly' and 'A Separation' proved Farhadi's storytelling abilities and won him an Oscar for Best Foreign Picture for 'A Separation' – also a story about a family arguing. 'The Past' was nominated for the Palme D'Or at Cannes.

As Derek Malcolm puts it in The Independent – 'Farhadi's interest is in the looks and gestures of his protagonists as they struggle to understand each other's motivations and feelings.

The most poignant moments are of kids in doorways looking on in bafflement at the behaviour of their parents or the adults themselves gazing at one another, trying forlornly to work out why everything in their lives seems so unresolved and chaotic'.



The main actors – Ali Mosaffa as Ahmad, Tahar Rahim ('A Prophet'), as Samir, and Bérénice Bejo ('The Artist'), who plays Marie - all get good reviews as well, with Bérénice Bejo coming in for most praise, including the Best Actress award at Cannes.

Derek Malcolm concludes 'this is an exquisitely made film which probes away at the rawest, most intimate emotions of its characters with a delicacy and insight reminiscent of Krzysztof Kieslowski in his prime', while David Jenkins in Little White Lies thinks 'Farhadi reveals himself (once again) as both a great humanist and a dab hand at building characters'.