

Room

Cert 15 Canada/Ireland 2015 118 mins

Crew

Director	Lenny Abrahamson
Screenplay	Emma Donoghue
Cinematography	Danny Cohen
Film Editing	Nathan Nugent
Original music	Stephen Rennicks

Cast

Brie Larson	Joy "Ma" Newsome
Jacob Tremblay	Jack Newsome
Sean Bridgers	Old Nick
Joan Allen	Nancy Newsome
William H. Macy	Robert Newsome
Tom McCamus	Leo

Synopsis

Ohio, USA, the recent past. Five year old Jack and his Ma are trapped - confined to a windowless, 10-by-10-foot space that Ma calls Room, where Jack has lived all his life. Ma has tried to create a whole universe for Jack within Room, a safe place where he can grow, but as he does, so does his curiosity about their situation.

Eventually Ma's resilience reaches breaking point, and they embark on a risky escape plan, bringing them face-to-face with what may turn out to be the scariest thing yet: the real world.



Booking Information

Distributor: Studio Canal

DVD/Blu-ray bookings: via **Filmbank**

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Available: May 2016



Reviews

Be warned, *Room* is a wrenching watch. It's a story so abhorrent and seemingly hopeless that there may be times you don't want it to go on, but within its tight confines Lenny Abrahamson, with a script by Emma Donoghue, finds warmth and hope. It is, against all odds, uplifting.

...Abrahamson's direction is astonishing, not just because he constantly finds new ways to see the room, keeping the viewer trapped in there but surprising us all the time, but for the performances he wrings from his cast. Brie Larson has been threatening for years to truly break out, and *Room* should be the film to make it happen. She's so raw as to verge on unwatchable, the pain she conveys just too upsetting to sit with. Nine year-old Tremblay gives one of the best child performances ever put on screen, utterly convincing as his world is cracked open. A lot of the credit for that has to go to Abrahamson. Very young child actors are only ever as good as their director.

Room asks an enormous amount of its audience, dragging you further into darkness in the journey to find some distant light. It's a mark of how well Abrahamson has told his story that by the end, which takes you to places once unimaginable, you'll likely be willing to go through it all again.

Olly Richards, Total Film, January 2016

....Perhaps the film's most impressive feat, however, is that it flips, back and forth, between the perspectives of Ma and Jack. Abrahamson is not interested in the gimmick of presenting Jack's subjective perception of the world, but he does show Ma's perspective of her son's limited, distorted grasp of this strange situation. Ma's eventual sense of grief isn't fuelled by the violent specifics of the ordeal, but the sense that her "fatherless" son has been irrevocably corrupted by what he has (and hasn't) seen, or that she has somehow let him down.

It's an incredibly moving and detailed work. By shunning melodrama to focus on physical and emotional minutiae, it's a film about the imperceptible struggles of getting through each dark day.

David Jenkins, Little White Lies, January 2016

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film premiered at the Telluride Film Festival in 2015, and was shown at the London Film Festival, where it was nominated for Best Film.
- ☆ Brie Larson has won many Best Actress Awards for her role as Ma, including Oscar, BAFTA, Golden Globe, Independent Spirit and Screen Actors Guild.
- ☆ Screenwriter Emma Donoghue's novel of the same name was shortlisted for the MAN Booker Prize in 2010.