

Spotlight

Cert 15 USA 2015 128 mins

Crew

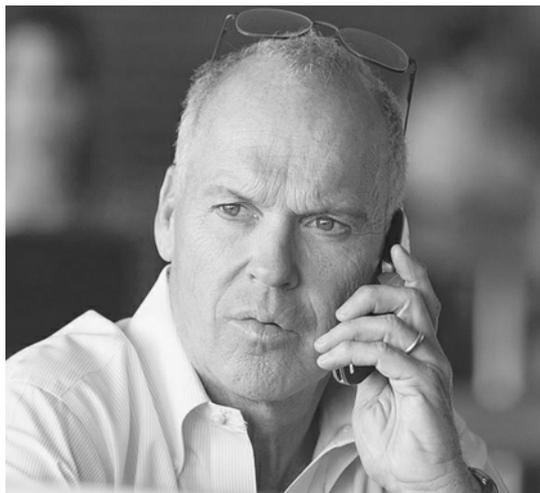
Director	Tom McCarthy
Screenplay	Tom McCarthy & Josh Singer
Cinematography	Masanobu Takayanagi
Film Editing	Tom McArdle
Original music	Howard Shore

Cast

Mark Ruffalo	Michael Rezendes
Michael Keaton	Walter "Robby" Robinson
Rachel McAdams	Sacha Pfeiffer
Liev Schreiber	Marty Baron
John Slattery	Ben Bradlee, Jr.
Brian d'Arcy James	Matt Carroll
Stanley Tucci	Mitchell Garabedian

Synopsis

Boston, USA, 2001. The 'Spotlight' team of investigative reporters on the Boston Globe launches a fearless investigation into allegations against the Catholic Church. By early 2002, the reporters uncover a shocking citywide scandal, with their investigation threatening to bring down some of the city's most powerful figures. They know that the Church is the very fabric of their city, but are determined to expose the systemic abuse of children by Catholic priests - and the decades of cover up that protected them. (Based on a true story)



Booking Information

Distributor: Entertainment One
DVD/Blu-ray bookings: via Filmbank
 0207 984 5957/8
 info@filmbank.co.uk
 www.filmbank.co.uk
Available: May 2016 (tbc)



Reviews

A beautifully crafted old school journalistic drama, *Spotlight* tackles a Big Subject (abuse by paedophile priests and the Catholic Church's systemic cover up) without any hint of worthiness, allowing the facts to speak for themselves during a fast-moving investigation conducted by an appealing collection of dogged reporters.

Directed and co-written by Tom McCarthy, the picture manages to avoid the cliches of the genre by refusing to lionise its "crusaders" or demonise the villains and is all the more authentic and powerful for it.

... The performances are unshowy but riveting, including John Slattery from TV's *Mad Men* as Ben Bradlee Jr, the section editor in charge of Spotlight. His father was the late Ben Bradlee, editor of The Washington Post played by Jason Robards in *All The President's Men*. *Spotlight* can stand shoulder to shoulder with that classic.

Henry Fitzherbert, Daily Express, January 2016

.....Director Thomas McCarthy's great strength is in his refusal to pander to audiences, or to default to easy answers; the correct reaction to the team's work is horror rather than jubilation. And while admirable, the reporters take some blame upon themselves. This crisis, after all, developed under their noses and it took an outsider to force them to examine it.

Similarly, the cast modestly play down their characters' achievements and reputations. There is no Oscar-bait grandstanding (well, maybe one moment) and they all look quietly dowdy without indulging in any unnecessary uglification. These journalist greats could happily have rubbed shoulders with Woodward and Bernstein in *All The President's Men*, and they bring down an even bigger institution.

Talky and intelligent, this lacks the glib edge of Aaron Sorkin or the poppy zip of Tarantino. Given the subject matter, too much lightness would be inappropriate. Instead, its tone is led by its characters, moving from scepticism to revelation and the uncomfortable sense that we should all feel guilty for ignoring the secrets too hard to acknowledge. A grown-up film about serious people that mercifully escapes any awards-grabbing platitudes, this is more thrilling than most action movies

Helen O'Hara, Empire Magazine, January 2016

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film featured in many critic's Top Ten Films of 2015. It was nominated for six Academy Awards in 2016, winning Best Film and Best Original Screenplay.
- ☆ The real-life Spotlight Team earned The Boston Globe the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for their work uncovering the scandal.