

## The Angels' Share

Cert 15 UK 2012 101 mins

### Crew

Director Ken Loach  
 Screenplay Paul Laverty  
 Cinematography Robbie Ryan  
 Film Editing Jonathan Morris

### Cast

Paul Brannigan Robbie  
 Gary Maitland Albert  
 Jasmin Riggins Mo  
 Siobhan Reilly Leonie  
 John Henshaw Harry  
 Roger Allam Thaddeus

### Synopsis

*Glasgow, the present. Young Robbie has already made some local enemies, not least the brothers of his pregnant girlfriend Leonie.*

*Now Robbie wants to turn his life around, for the sake of Leonie and the baby. Embarking on a sentence of community service he meets Harry, his kindly supervisor, who introduces him to the joys of whisky tasting.*

*But he also meets Thaddeus, a shady whisky broker. Together they hatch an idea for a lucrative heist involving a rare cask of traditional Scottish spirit...*



- The film premiered at Cannes 2012, where director Ken Loach (honorary patron of BFFS) won the Jury Prize.
- Screen-writer Paul Laverty features in another film in our viewings today - he also wrote the screenplay for *Even the Rain* (and his wife is the director)
- First time actor Paul Brannigan (Robbie) was spotted by Paul Laverty at the Strathclyde police's Violence Reduction Unit, where he teaches four hours of football a week
- Gary Maitland (Albert) has appeared in two other Ken Loach films - *Sweet Sixteen* (2002) and *Tickets* (2005).



### Reviews

The 'angels' share' is a poetic expression for the small quantity of Scotch whisky that evaporates through the sides of the cask during maturation. It is something that time takes away from us for the very best of reasons; a welcome loss in the long, dark process of improvement.

It is also the name of Ken Loach's smokily satisfying new comedy; the sole British contender for the Palme D'Or at Cannes this year. It is a crime caper set on the west coast of Scotland, complex on the palate but with a lasting toasty finish, and framed by one of the social realist, working class narratives that Loach has made his trademark. Imagine Compton Mackenzie had written *Sweet Sixteen* and you'll be on the right track....

Loach and his regular screenwriter Paul Laverty won the Palme D'Or in 2006 for *The Wind That Shakes The Barley*, but this is a subtler, less inflammatory piece. Laverty, who grew up in Glasgow, and Loach's cast have a fine ear for the trickling, gugging rhythms of modern Scots, scorching expletives and all. Every scene is a pleasure to listen to; many are also knee-slappingly funny....This is British comedy at its warmest and most pleasurable: cask strength, unfiltered and neat.

*Robbie Collin, The Telegraph, May 2012*

It isn't easy to make a warm, unpatronising comedy about the unemployed, especially with characters who seem pretty unemployable. But if anyone can do it, Ken Loach, fêted at Cannes with the Jury Prize, can. He's a master of making us see the downside of it all and giving us laughs at the same time.

His latest tale, not all that tall and sympathetically written by Paul Laverty, a regular collaborator, is set in Glasgow .... Brannigan is clearly a find, not quite an anti-hero and not quite a hero either, and Henshaw, considerably more experienced, gives the bluff social worker an enormous basinful of charm. Roger Allam has a small cameo role as a smooth operator in the rare whisky market.

You can pick holes in this from several angles - admittedly, it is nothing like Loach's best - but you come out liking it and wondering why the Film Classification Board made the director take out some four-letter words in order to obtain a 15-certificate. That's how these people talk, Loach complained. Apparently not on film, they don't, and rules are rules.

*Derek Malcolm, Evening Standard, June 2012*