

## Your Sister's Sister

Cert 15 USA 2012 91 mins

### Crew

Director/  
Screenplay Lynn Shelton  
Cinematography Benjamin Kasulk  
Film Editing Nat Sanders  
Original music Vince Smith

### Cast

Emily Blunt Iris  
Mark Duplass Jack  
Rosemarie DeWitt Hannah

### Synopsis

*United States, the present. A year after the death of his brother Tom, thirty-something Jack is still struggling with his emotions.*

*When Jack makes a scene at a memorial reunion for Tom, Iris (who was Tom's girlfriend) suggests that he goes to stay at her family's remote cabin in the Pacific Northwest for a few days.*

*There he unexpectedly meets Iris's sister Hannah, who is herself in turmoil following the abrupt end of a seven-year relationship. A blurry evening of drinking sets the scene for a twisted tale of ever-complicated relationships ....*



- The film was shot in just 12 days in Washington State, and was made on a budget of just \$125,000.
- It premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in September 2011, and also screened at Sundance 2012 before general release in the summer of 2012.
- Rachel Weiss was originally cast as Hannah, and the part was developed with her in mind. However there were scheduling conflicts with *The Deep Blue Sea*, and Rosemarie DeWitt was substituted just a few days before shooting started.



### Reviews

....It's interesting to see Shelton, a mumblecore mainstay, experimenting outside the usual lo-fi, low-budget, non-pro-player mix by working with high-profile actors like Blunt and DeWitt, who bring a nicely nuanced range of emotions to their portrayal of the sisters. It's their rapport, and Blunt's easy charm as Iris, that give the movie its loose, affectionate feel.

Though the dialogue is mostly improvised, it feels rooted in the relationships as well as pleasingly spontaneous (the actors worked from extensive backstories and a 70-page 'scriptment' but have an affinity that belies the film's 12-day shoot). Only during Jack's grandstanding final speech pledging himself to love one sister and support the other do your fingers itch for the red pencil.

....What's really deliciously different, though, is seeing Shelton ditch her claustrophobic cameraphone aesthetic, setting her characters' talky, awkward exchanges in wooded Washington State glades and on shimmering shorelines that amplify their conflicted emotions and the desires they seem determined to dodge. The end result, despite the hipster speak and comic vegan-cookery interludes, feels satisfyingly more like a Rohmer-com than a romcom.

*Kate Stable, Sight and Sound, July 2012*

.....Shot and cut with invisible style, Shelton's movie lets the trio's semi-improv performances push and pull the drama effortlessly. Mumblecore dude Duplass is mischievous and edgy, throwing nervous looks and cheeky darts of wit.

Blunt is bright and wonderful as the girl in the middle. *Rachel Getting Married* star DeWitt takes a role that's bending towards cliché - a vegan lesbian who's "emotionally allergic to butter" - and reinforces it with careful complexities.

So it's a real shame, then, that *Your Sister's Sister* stretches a little bit too far for its own good. Having drawn out the drama with such humour and subtlety, the movie's third act rings surprisingly false to leave it feeling as weird and unrealistic as *Humpday*.

Luckily, Duplass, Blunt and DeWitt have already won us over, and their witty, believable interplay is what stops this three-hander feeling like a throwaway film. Makes you wonder what they could do with two bottles of tequila...

*Jonathon Crocker, Total Film, June 2012*