

Nebraska

Cert 15 USA 2013 115 mins

Crew

Director	Alexander Payne
Screenplay	Bob Nelson
Cinematography	Phedon Papamichael
Film Editing	Kevin Tent
Original music	Mark Orton

Cast

Bruce Dern	Woody Grant
Will Forte	David Grant
June Squibb	Kate Grant
Bob Odenkirk	Ross Grant
Stacy Keach	Ed Pegram
Mary Louise Wilson	Aunt Martha

Synopsis

Billings, Montana, the present. Senior citizen Woody Grant - stubborn, grumpy and well past his prime - gets a leaflet from a sweepstake company in Nebraska, telling him he's the lucky winner of a \$1 million.

Woody's family do their best to convince him that it's a scam, but Woody is so determined to chase his pot of gold that his son David decides the only option is to drive him on the 750 mile journey.

En route, they stop over in Woody's home town, and pay a quick visit to his brother Ray. But word accidentally slips out about their mission, and Woody quickly becomes the subject of local gossip, celebrity and (inevitably) greed...



Booking Information

Distributor: Paramount Pictures UK

DVD bookings: via **Filmbank**

0207 984 5957/8

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Available: April 2014

Programme notes



Reviews

Alexander Payne's new movie shares its name with one of Bruce Springsteen's greatest albums, and both share a primitive sensibility in which everything bar the essential is pruned back to its roots. And just as the Boss's four-track opus played out in the mind like some monochrome bordertown noir, so does this arrive in glowing, washed out black-and-white.

The decision to film *Nebraska* in black and white is fitting — symbolising the two-tone simplicity of life in the American midwest while also imbuing the people and landscape with a mythic quality. The film works as a companion piece to his doleful Polynesian caper, *The Descendants*, in that both films follow middle-aged men who have been touched by the possible death of a close family member, and examine their subsequent efforts to instigate some kind of short-order Karmic realignment.

....For the most part, this is a lovely comedy of regret and remorse that deals with how the prospect of death is viewed by both young and old. At its best, it shows Payne's capacity for a melancholic humanism that captures a consummate mixture of tragedy and comedy.

David Jenkins, Little White Lies, December 2013

.....Shooting in widescreen black and white, Payne works fresh variations on his favourite format, the road movie (see *About Schmidt, Sideways*). His sense of place is as acute as ever and the casting is spot-on down to the smallest bit-part. As Woody's sardonic wife, Squibb steals several scenes, and there's another welcome returnee in the shape of Stacy Keach as Woody's ex-partner with his eye on the loot.

But above all, *Nebraska* belongs to Dern, inhabiting his role with total conviction. Shuffling, shambling, his white hair fluffed out like stale candy-floss, he's a picture of dazed helplessness. But then every so often, a glimpse of that cunning sidelong glance we remember from the Dern of old makes us wonder – is Woody quite as doolally as he makes out?

Philip Kemp, Total Film, December 2013

Awards, commendations, accolades

Cannes 2013: **Best Actor Award - Bruce Dern**

Academy Awards 2014 - 6 nominations, including Best Film

BAFTA Awards 2014 - 3 nominations including Best Actor

Independent Spirit Awards - **Best First Screenplay**

