

The Wonders

Cert 15 Italy 2014 111 mins

Crew

Director/ Screenplay Alice Rohrwacher
 Cinematography H  l  ne Louvart
 Film Editing Marco Spoletini
 Original music Piero Crucitti

Cast

Alba Rohrwacher Angelica
 Maria Alexandra Lungu Gelsomina
 Sam Louwyck Wolfgang
 Sabine Timoteo Coc  
 Agnese Graziani Marinella
 Monica Bellucci Milly Catena

Synopsis

Central Italy, the present. Twelve-year-old Gelsomina lives with her unusual family in a remote and rundown farmhouse in the scorched countryside.

We meet them at crisis point: money is tighter than ever and her parents are at each other's throats. To complicate things further, a troubled and near-silent German foster child has recently joined the family, and a local TV station is running a bizarre, nostalgic contest called with a prize for local producers. But both intrusions are of interest to Gelsomina, as she struggles to find her footing in the world.



Booking Information

Distributor: Soda Pictures

DVD bookings:

0207 377 1407

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Available: Now



Reviews

Proving once again why she's currently regarded as one of Italian cinema's most exciting prospects, Alice Rohrwacher follows up her impressive 2011 debut, *Corpo Celeste*, with this semi-autobiographical tale of a colourful family's struggle to keep its head above water against a changing tide ...

The family effectively represents traditional Italian working values, which are being threatened by big business in the less progressive parts of the country. It's a sympathetic portrait, but Rohrwacher neither glorifies their peasant lifestyle nor condemns the economic climate that is slowly squeezing them dry. Instead she focuses largely on the relationship between father Wolfgang (grateful for everything he has but quietly desperate for a son) and eldest daughter Gelsomina, dedicating leisured sequences to them tending their hives in a neighbouring crop farmer's parched fields.

...For a country with such a rich cinematic heritage, Italy's recent track record as far as championing emerging talent is concerned, especially of the female variety, is hardly what you might call exemplary. To that end, the continued rise of the Rohrwacher sisters comes as both a welcome tonic and the surest sign yet that the long-term future of Italian cinema is in good health.

Adam Woodward, Little White Lies, July 2015

....Rohrwacher shoots all this in an easy, keep-on-rolling documentary style. Filming on grainy 16mm, she relies on natural light, and there's a relaxed everyday intimacy and immediacy to the whole thing, the cast giving apparently effortless performances. This film is less successful when it leans more on plot than life, and the climax, bringing together the story's two novelties – the foster child and the TV show – is less effective than the earlier, more observational episodes. Yet, throughout, Rohrwacher draws us into this unusual world with the ease of someone who knows exactly what they're talking about, neither judging nor celebrating and, at her best, just looking with tenderness and a winning sense of humour.

Dave Calhoun, Time Out, July 2015

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival 2014, where it won the Grand Jury Prize, and was nominated for the Palme D'Or.
- ☆ Director/writer Alice Rohrwacher was raised in a bee-keeping family in Tuscany. Her sister Alba (here as Angelica) is an established actor, appearing in films including *My Brother is an Only Child* and *I am Love*.
- ☆ All the scenes depicting the apiarist work were shot in one day with a special documentary crew experienced in filming bees.