

# Love is Strange

Cert 15 USA 2014 98 mins

## Crew

Director	Ira Sachs
Screenplay	Ira Sachs & Mauricio Zacharias
Cinematography	Christos Voudouris
Film Editing	Afonso Gonçalves & Michael Taylor

## Cast

John Lithgow	Ben
Alfred Molina	George
Marisa Tomei	Kate
Charlie Tahan	Joey
Cheyenne Jackson	Ted
Darren Burrows	Elliot
Manny Perez	Roberto

## Synopsis

*New York, the present. After living together for nearly four decades, Ben and George can finally tie the knot, and have an idyllic wedding ceremony in lower Manhattan.*

*But soon after, George loses his job and the couple are forced to sell their apartment and live apart until they can find a new home that they can afford.*

*George moves in with two cops who live down stairs, and Ben ends up in Brooklyn with his nephew's family - arrangements that quickly put a strain on everyone involved.*



## Booking Information

**Distributor:** Altitude Film Distribution

**DVD/Blu-ray bookings:**

**CINEMA for ALL Booking Scheme**

see page 8 for more information

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[www.cinemaforall.org.uk](http://www.cinemaforall.org.uk)

**Available:** Now



## Reviews

.... Wherever you look in *Love Is Strange*, there are thumbnail sketches of affection as acutely observed as the skyline painting upon which Ben works on the roof of Kate and Elliot's apartment – works in progress, unfinished, imperfect, but immediately recognisable. The film's portrait of New York, too, is shot through with tenderness, cinematographer Christos Voudouris (who filmed Yorgos Lanthimos's chilly *Alps* and Richard Linklater's intimate *Before Midnight*) imbuing the city streets with a dappled 1970s texture that belies Sachs's inevitable move from celluloid to digital.

Just as the story is proudly "multigenerational", so the naturalistic visual and editing styles have a timeless, unintrusive quality, encouraging us to feel that we are living with these characters, rubbing shoulders with their expansive personalities, occasionally crowding them out of these tight-quartered environments.

Easing all the domestic anxiety is the music, Chopin echoing from incidental accompaniment to the sounds of George's private piano lessons. More than once, we see tears released by the power of a particular tune, but these are not the showy operatic tears of Tom Hanks in *Philadelphia*; rather, they are the tears of experience, of acceptance, of love. Watching Ben and George listening to music, we see their relationship unfold before us; the hopes, the fears, the regrets – the life.

*Mark Kermode, The Observer, February 2015*

.... Lithgow is given to acting large, but he shows remarkable restraint in a gentle performance that is as much about feeling old, lonely and helpless as it is about relationships. In the deceptively simplest scenes, Molina beautifully conveys a rich emotional inner life.

Ira Sachs and co-writer Mauricio Zacharias haven't done anything flashy, but the dialogue and behaviour of the different generations are so well observed and the unhurried direction focussed so gracefully on eloquent moments, that the cumulative effect is profoundly moving. The conclusion is that love, joyous, demanding or painful, isn't at all strange. It simply is.

*Angie Errigo, Empire Magazine, February 2015*

## FILM FACTS...

- ☆ *Love is Strange* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2014 .
- ☆ It has featured at many international film festivals around the world and was nominated for four Independent Spirit Awards.
- ☆ The storyline has roots in director Ira Sachs' own experience - he and his partner of many years married in New York in 2011.

**Spring Viewing Sessions April-May 2015**