

The Breadwinner

Cert 12A Ireland 2017 93 mins

Crew

Director	Nora Twomey	F RATED
Screenplay	Anita Doron & Deborah Ellis	
Film Editing	Darragh Byrne	
Art Direction	Ciaran Duffy & Reza Riahi	
Original music	Mychael & Jeff Danna	

Voices

Saara Chaudry	Parvana
Soma Chhaya	Shauzia
Laara Sadiq	Fatema / Old Woman
Ali Badshah	Nurullah/ Talib Security
Shaista Latif	Soraya
Noorin Gulamgaus	Idrees / Sulayman

Synopsis

Afghanistan, the recent past. Eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in war-torn Kabul. She helps her father in the marketplace, where he earns a living by reading and writing letters for people.

One day, her father is arrested by the Taliban. Since women are not allowed to leave home without men, the family is left without someone who can earn money or even shop for food.

Parvana decides to cut her hair and disguise herself as a boy, so that she can be the breadwinner for the family. And she also resolves to find a way to rescue her father...



Booking Information

Distributor: Studio Canal

DVD bookings: via **Filmbank**

0207 984 5957/8

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www.filmbank.co.uk

Available: now



Reviews

Further proof that we are living through a golden age of animation is provided by this Oscar-nominated marvel from Kilkenny's Cartoon Saloon, the studio behind *The Secret of Kells* and *Song of the Sea*. An Irish-Canadian-Luxembourgish co-production, adapted from Deborah Ellis's much-loved YA novel, it's a tale of youthful fortitude in Taliban-era Afghanistan that has something of the defiant feminist spirit of the French-Iranian gem *Persepolis*.

Flitting between a mythical past and a down-to-earth present, the story is full of scary monsters - from fantastical demons to all-too-real landmines and brutal beatings. Yet *The Breadwinner* looks through the eyes of a resilient young girl whose courage is our guide. Along with the eerie beauty of the animation there is a salving streak of humour that softens this tale's sharper edges, reminding us that - for children - laughter and bravery walk hand in hand....

Mark Kermode, *The Observer*, May 2018

...Where *Persepolis*'s voice cast was dominated by white celebrities, most of the actors used here are of Afghan or Pakistani descent. We're also encouraged to see even the vilest members of the Taliban as three-dimensional, while details concerning the region's history are conveyed with a gentle touch.

Just as impressive is the way *The Breadwinner* explores the role of magic in popular storytelling. Parvana concocts a fable for her adorable brother and we can see for ourselves how the fantastical elements create a bridge over troubled water. That said, the more involved we get in Parvana's life, the more transporting her real-life encounters become.

This beautiful and continually surprising film makes us think about what children can and can't bear. By turns distressing, soothing and galvanising, it will probably frighten the bejesus out of little 'uns and cause older kids to bombard their parents with questions (the conclusion is deliberately open-ended). The question they'll ask most: "When can we see it again?"

Charlotte O'Sullivan, *London Evening Standard*, May 2018

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film premiered at TIFF in Toronto in September 2017, where it won the Young People's Jury Award. It was nominated for the Best Animated Feature Film in the Academy Awards 2018 and in the European Film Awards.
- ☆ Nora Twomey was co-director of *The Secret of Kells*, and art director for *Song of the Sea*. Both were also Oscar nominated.
- ☆ The singing of a girl heard in moments of hope is a recording of the Nahid Women Choir of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music made in Kabul.