

Leave No Trace

Cert PG USA 2018 108 mins

Crew

Director	Debra Granik	
Screenplay	Anne Rosellini & Debra Granik	
Cinematography	Michael McDonough	
Film Editing	Jane Rizzo	
Original music	Dickon Hinchliffe	

Cast

Ben Foster	Will
Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie	Tom
Jeff Kober	Mr. Walters
Dale Dickey	Dale
Dana Millican	Jean Bauer
Alyssa Lynn	Valerie
Ryan Joiner	Tiffany

Synopsis

Oregon, the present. Will, an Iraqi war veteran, and his teenage daughter Tom have been living "off the grid" for several years in the forests of Portland. Their life is harsh, but at the same time idyllic. A chance encounter with a jogger sucks them back into the system, where the kindness of uncomprehending social workers only rubs salt into the wounds. After clashing with their new surroundings, Will and Tom set off on a harrowing journey back to their wild homeland.



Booking Information

Distributor: Sony Pictures
DVD bookings: via **Filmbank**
 0207 984 5957/8
 info@filmbank.co.uk
 www.filmbank.co.uk
Available: now



Reviews

....The brilliance of *Leave No Trace* lies in its understatement. The film could easily have seemed baffling and very pretentious if Granik had indulged in flights of Terrence Malick-like lyricism. Instead, she takes a much more down to earth approach.

The performances help too. Foster is the type of fiercely committed, frighteningly intense method actor who, when he plays a character with an injured leg, grimaces so much that you don't doubt for a moment the pain is agonisingly real. His character here is pulled in different directions: determined to protect his daughter at all costs but also half aware that he is depriving her of the educational and social opportunities she needs.

Granik "discovered" Jennifer Lawrence in *Winter's Bone*. It wouldn't be a surprise if her young female lead here, Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie, goes on to have an equally successful career.

Geoffrey MacNab, *The Independent*, June 2018

...In the same way that *Winter's Bone* showcased Jennifer Lawrence's talents, *Leave No Trace* presents a potentially star-making turn from its young star Harcourt McKenzie: she is excellent - watchful, sensitive and ambiguously aged. At times her character's lack of peer-group socialisation leaves her stranded in childhood, while at others she is wise beyond her years. At pivotal points in the film - when she catches herself in the act of wishing for a life not ruled by her father's paranoid regime - she seems to stretch and grow older before our eyes.

Foster, who won acclaim for his supporting role in 2016's *Hell or High Water*, offers another quite remarkable performance. Will's deep instability is never in doubt, but Foster keeps it at a simmer, without indulging in exuberant displays.

.... Consistently downplayed, and with little of the shocking squalor or violence of *Winter's Bone*, *Leave No Trace* may struggle to make the same impact as Granik's earlier film. It's a rewarding experience, nonetheless: a story of deep emotional poignancy, with a grim political relevance. Tom and Will's tragedy began in a conflict on foreign shores, but modern urban America offers no safe haven.

Pamela Hutchinson, *Sight and Sound*, June 2018

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, to very positive critical acclaim. (Rotten Tomatoes approval is still 100%, after 195 reviews)
- ☆ The storyline is based on the 2009 novel *My Abandonment* by Peter Rock.
- ☆ Most of the location filming took place in spring 2017 in Portland. The last third of the story was filmed at Squaw Mountain Ranch, a family oriented nudist resort in Oregon. Established in 1933, it's the oldest nudist club west of the Mississippi. It's open year-round, with rooms to rent in the lodge.