

ROCKS

1h 33min // United Kingdom // English



SYNOPSIS

As Shola - or Rocks to her friends - returns home from her first day of year 11, she finds her mother has left with only a note and a small amount of cash by way of explanation. With her friends rallying around her, Rocks is forced to take care of her younger brother without the authorities discovering they are living on their own, whilst surviving the day-to-day trials and tribulations of her teenage years.

MORE ABOUT THE FILM...

Film notes from FilmBath Festival 2019 by Sam Healer

The inspiration for *Rocks* came to director Sarah Gavron while screening her previous film, the critically acclaimed *Suffragette*, in schools across the country as part of that film's promotional tour. 'I spent a lot of time talking to young women, hearing their responses to the film. It made me think about what it's like to be a teenager today,' she told Screen Daily, adding that this 'coincided with my own daughter becoming a teenager. Suddenly I was fascinated with seeing the world through their eyes.'

Gavron began a workshop process with award-winning playwright Theresa Ikoko and cowriter Claire Wilson (*The Little Drummer Girl*) with the dual aims of finding both a story to tell through this lens and a cast to bring it to life. As Wilson explained to Seventh Row, 'we came on board to write a story about young girls growing up in London, so we spent time with different girls at schools, remembering how it was to grow up and all that stuff. Then we started to develop a story around them. As the group became smaller and smaller, casting became clearer. Then Theresa found the narrative which we worked into a script.'

Rocks received its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and received positive notices across the board, with many reviewers making comparisons to the work of Ken Loach and Lynne Ramsay. Caitlin Quinlan at Little White Lies described it as 'a film of great empathy and love, as Gavron champions and protects the sheer resilience on show', whilst The Guardian's Peter Bradshaw noted that the premise and themes are 'tough, but it's the opposite of miserablist'.

Rocks is the culmination of extraordinary talents brought together to tell the story of ordinary London teenage girls. The resilience on display in *Rocks* is a daily occurrence, but here brought to life by a creative team determined to capture the love, empathy, and friendship that makes such resilience possible.

CAST

CHARACTER	ACTOR
Shola 'Rocks'	Bukky Bakray
Sumaya	Kosar Ali
D'angelou Osei Kissiedu	Emmanuel
Shaneigha -Monik Greyson	Roshé

CREW

Director	Sarah Gavron
Writers	Theresa Ikoko Claire Wilson
Cinematography	Hélène Louvart

BOOKING

Distributor:	Altitude Film Entertainment
Non-theatrical bookings:	Cinema for All
Available:	TBC

