



camden libraries

Movie Club

Short Term 12 (2013)

1. "Short Term 12" is a film written and directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, this is his second feature-length film. Discuss how this film is different to a mainstream Hollywood movie.

"Short Term 12,' a superb sophomore effort by the young filmmaker Destin Daniel Cretton, is a quietly observant, hyper-aware piece of naturalistic drama that is full of offhanded astonishments." Ann Hornaday, [Washington Post](#).

2. The film is partly based on Cretton's personal experiences working in such a facility. Discuss how this may have impacted on the film and the way difficult themes are presented.

"It all could have been painfully mawkish, populated as it is with the kinds of kids who provide inspiration for after-school specials. Instead, "Short Term 12" comes from a place of delicate and truthful understatement, which allows the humanity and decency of its characters—and, yes, the lessons—to shine through naturally." Roger Ebert, <https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/short-term-12-2013>

3. Discuss the relationship between Grace and Jayden, why is this relationship important? You might want to consider the connection between Jayden and Grace's past.

Review

“Short Term 12” is an American film set in a foster-care centre; while this premise can feel somewhat cliché or overdone, the film manages to present an original perspective on familiar themes. This may come down to the fact that writer/director, Destin Daniel Cretton, partly based the film on personal experience. Cretton worked in a centre similar to the one depicted in the film. Perhaps then, this may also explain the very humanistic perspective in which characters are depicted and themes are presented.

“Short Term 12” was initially made as a 22-minute short film, however, Cretton decided to adapt it into a feature-length film. The film premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival where it won the Narrative Feature award.

The Movie Club will be screening “Short Term 12” on Wednesday 14 March, 6pm sharp at Narellan Library. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided, BYO snacks are more than welcome. Stay after the screening for a short discussion about the film. See the discussion questions to get some ideas.