

Dossier de presse THE MIRACLE CLUB

Le 15 novembre aux cinémas belges

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Régie par Thaddeus O'Sullivan
Avec Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates et Laura Linney

Synopsis

Dublin, 1968 : C'est le rêve de toute femme au foyer de s'aventurer dans le vaste monde, loin du train-train quotidien. En remportant un pèlerinage dans la ville sainte de Lourdes, cela devient soudainement à la portée des chanceuses Lily, Eileen et Dolly. Ils ont la chance de se déchaîner, de célébrer la vie et de profiter de leur indépendance. Il devient vite évident qu'il y a plus à faire et les femmes sont confrontées à des obstacles personnels. Lentement mais sûrement, ils commencent à apprécier leur plus grand cadeau : le pouvoir de leur amitié.



Background information

Producer Chris Curling is the lead producer on the film and was first sent the script nearly twenty years ago. "two or three years ago it came back onto my desk and Kathy was already attached to play – it's a screenplay that particularly attracted her with her Irish heritage. Maggie Smith was also interested. So my priority was to make the film as attractive as possible to Maggie so that she was happy to commit. I knew that Laura Linney and Maggie Smith were great admirers of each other's work and I had just had the pleasure of working with Laura on Viggo Mortensen's first feature film, Falling. They both committed to The Miracle Club at the same time. Once we had these three wonderful actors committed I felt very confident that with the support of Embankment Films, our sales agent, we could finance The Miracle Club as an independent film".

For Kathy Bates her belief in the story is rooted in “the women...I would say ... really kept me in. I remember meeting Maggie at the Oscars and she asked me “are we every going to do this effin movie” and I responded “don’t hold your breath” and yet here we are in Dublin’.

The screenplay, written by Dubliner Jimmy Smallhorne says his inspiration for the film came from his Mam and all other women who were the best multitaskers “my mother had eight kids herself and my father so that’s ten meals three times a day – all the women on my street were heroic, charismatic, riveting characters. They had resilience in spite of the hardship and they had faith. In getting the script into the hands of Kathy Bates and Maggie Smith Jimmy owes it all to “one amazing woman Joan Allen – who in turn got the script to the two actors and who herself believed in the story”.

“You know, the Jewish culture has this idea that created this kind of imperfect work and we all have our jobs to make our little piece better, and I think The Miracle Club is my attempt to make my patch a little better”.

For director Thaddeus O’Sullivan he was approached “Maybe twenty years ago and nothing happened and then two years ago it came back around. What attracted me to the script is the notion of a bunch of women going to Lourdes looking for a miracle. It’s just about the best strap line you could have for a story! Our characters have their own reason to go, all of which are quite different and have different outcomes for them all”.



Vision de réalisateur

Director Thaddeus O’Sullivan says “I grew up in working class Dublin in the 60’s so I knew women that were like these characters, people that were religious but also as they got older and wiser the more sceptical they were about religion. My mother went to Lourdes to say thank you to the Virgin Mary for her intercession with regard to an illness that affected my father– so I saw that belief at first hand”.

In talking about the cast and the four women in particular The director of *The Miracle Club* said:

On Laura:

“I don’t think I have met an actor who was so filmic in the way Laura would approach the journey of the character and that she would be handing over the responsibility of the character to the director. She came so prepared in her mind about where she was in the journey. I think she has a love of the camera and a love of collaboration that we all got the benefit of”.

On Maggie:

“Maggie Smith is so UN- Downton! She is daunting to work with because of who she is and her body of work but what’s very clear is all she wants to do is act. When herself, Laura and Kathy were on set a switch went on and they would improvise beats and moments and the whole thing would just elevate”.

On Kathy:

“Kathy Bates was incredibly open to the whole process. She had such enthusiasm and such a deep interest in this character. She would practice her Irish accent in LA and stayed in accent – that was her level of immersion and commitment to the project. He continued “I haven’t met an actor who so embraced the character as much as Kathy”.



Maggie Smith, connue pour *Downton Abbey* (pour lequel elle a reçu un Emmy et un Golden Globe du meilleur second rôle), la série *Harry Potter*, *A Room With A View* et *Carolina Suite* (pour laquelle elle a remporté l'Oscar du meilleur second rôle), joue le rôle de Lily.

Laura Linney, connue pour *The Big C* et *Ozark*, joue le rôle de Chrissie.

Kathy Bates, connue pour *The Big Bang Theory* et *Titanic*, incarne Eileen.

The Miracle Club du réalisateur irlandais Thaddeus O'Sullivan (connu entre autres pour *Silent Witness* et *Into The Storm*) sort le 15 novembre aux cinémas belges. Pour les demandes de presse, veuillez contacter gudrun@thepfactory.com ou barbara@thepfactory.com