THE LAST CHOIR

A FEATURE FILM

Written by Tom Rivers

A METEOR IS HEADING FOR EARTH. EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO CAN CHOOSE TO HUDDLE DOWN IN A BUNKER FOR A FEW DECADES.

WHO WOULD SAY NO TO THIS OFFER?
AND WHAT WOULD THEY DO WITH THE TIME THEY HAVE LEFT?

THE HOOK

THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO END.

An asteroid is heading for Earth, set to make the surface uninhabitable for decades.

Governments evacuate everyone who wants to enter a bunker. Cities empty.

In Brighton, a group of people make an unusual decision. They choose to stay behind. They choose to die, and remain in place for their final days. They could drink themselves into a stupor, or overdose on pills.

INSTEAD THEY FORM A CHOIR.

LOGLINE

“

When an asteroid gives humanity just fifteen days to live, a former musical director plagued by guilt, who has spent years shutting herself off from the world reluctantly takes charge of a ragtag choir, finding a small moment of joy (and potentionally redemption for herself), just as time runs out.

OUR PROTAGONIST: CLAIRE

A WOMAN WHO STOPPED LIVING FAR BEFORE THE WORLD ENDED.

Once a gifted musical director, Claire has reduced her existence to routine: charity-shop shifts, solitary runs and keeping everyone at arm’s length.

Five years earlier, her husband Charles and six-year-old son Jason died in a car crash. Claire survived.

What nobody knows is why she feels such guilt about the event. Such strong shame that she feels completely undeserving of human connection and happiness.

The end of the world doesn’t bother Claire. What scares her more is the idea that she might deserve even one more moment of happiness.

PETER AND THE CHURCH

A PLACE OF WORSHIP. BUT ALSO SOMETHING FAMILIAR, COMFORTING, A PLACE (AND PERSON) THE ABANDONED ARE DRAWN TO IN THE DARKEST OF TIMES

Peter believes that his religious devotion is a calling. He believes people attend his church because of his sermons (which are not good).

What he doesn't understand is why people walk through the doors after the announcement that God has seemingly abandoned them to their fates. Given a life of rules and set teachings, he struggles to offer comfort. So why do people keep coming through the doors?

The answer lies in his slow realisation that the church represents more than a place of worship, and his character, his kindness was the thing keeping his congretation together.

THE PEOPLE WHO CHOOSE TO BE LEFT BEHIND

These are the people who for their own reasons chose not to be rescued. Misfits, oddballs and those without the desire to survive.

PETER

A kind priest discovering compassion may matter more than piety after a life governed by rules, rituals and confidence.

KOBE

Fourteen, a gifted drummer caring for his dying mother, shouldering a burden far greater than his age.

SAM + JAMES

Two men carrying very different histories of loss and find their way to the choir in spite of it.

THE CHATTERJEES

A married older couple who bring richness and music to the choir in their own way.

BECKY

A shy and ostensibly rebellious young woman hiding a desire to self-express through music, though initially wrapped up in Noah's world.

NOAH

Becky's boyfriend, who embodies the hedonistic approach to the end of times. He thinks he's Mick Jagger and living hard and dying young.

LENA

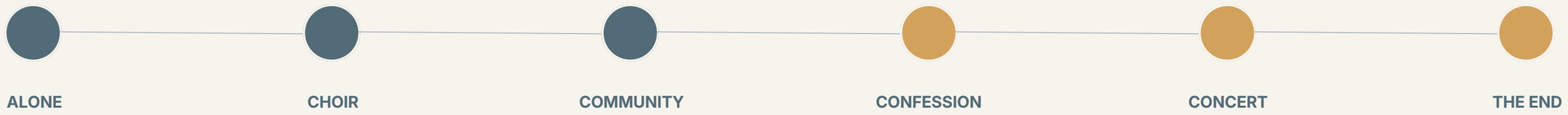
A Polish street cleaner determined to keep Brighton tidy to the end.

QUEENIE + JOYCE

Elderly rivals who bicker like sisters, and love each other like one too.

TOGETHER, THEY BECOME A FAMILY.

FINDING HUMAN CONNECTION DESPITE HAVING EVERY REASON TO ABANDON HOPE



There's 15 days to go.

Claire reluctantly takes control of Peter's hopeless amateur choir. As their singing improves, the church becomes a refuge. They decide to perform one final concert.

Throughout, Peter and Claire's relationship drives the themes forward. Claire is closed off at first, but ultimaitely caring and pragmatic. Peter is kind but stiff and finds himseld without answers.

The closer Claire gets to this makeshift family, the harder it becomes to hide the truth: she was drunk when she crashed the car that killed her husband and son.

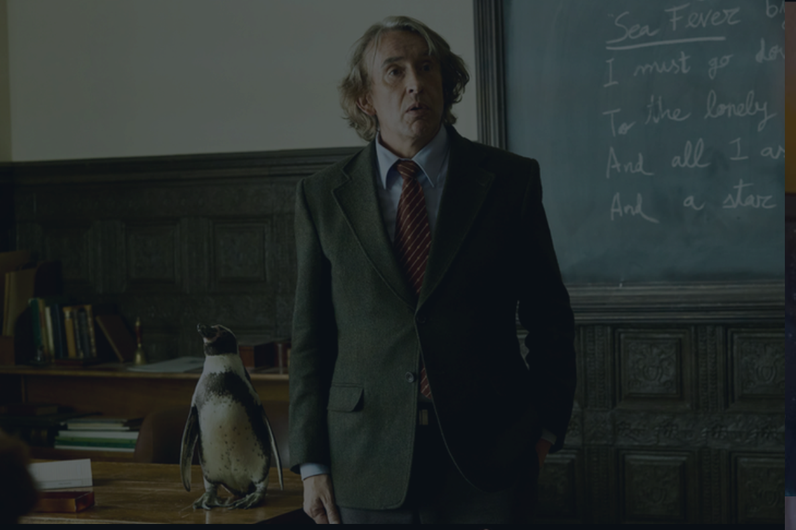
Our group is contrasted throughout with Noah's "end of the world party" contingent.

Their actions, views and approach to this contracstrophe pull at different answers to our central question.

The two groups also cross paths, and ultimaitely it is Noah's fault that his party spirals out of control.

When the venue burns down hours before impact, Claire disappears. The community created does not.

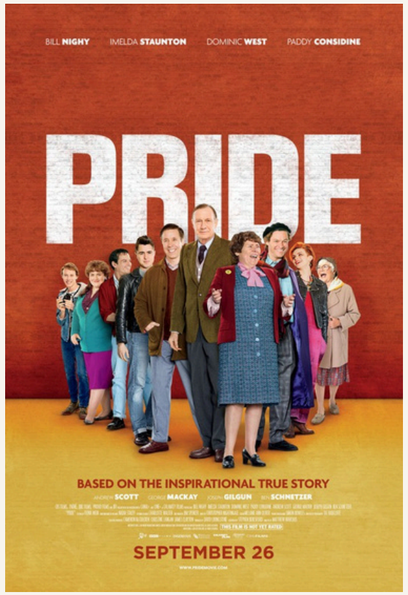
After all, they cannot delay the concert. Will they pull off one final act of defiant joy in time?

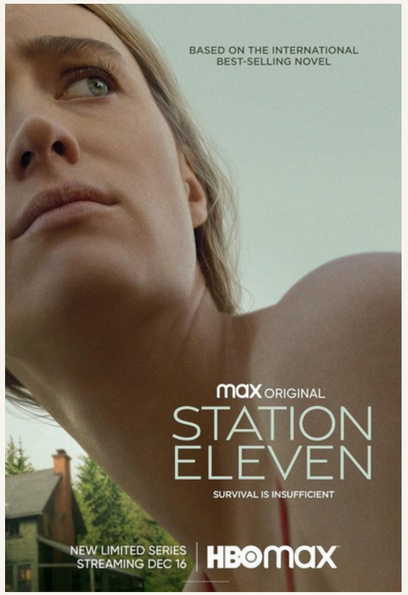


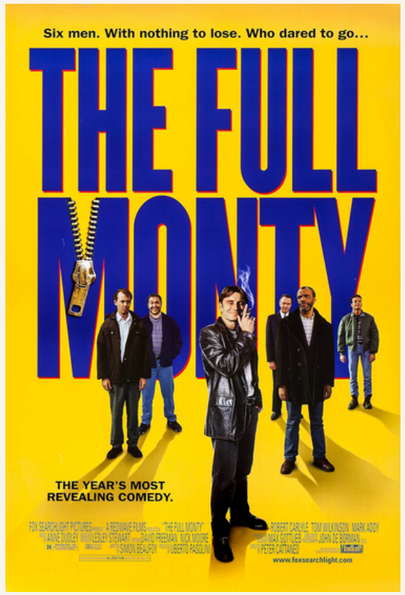
THE MOOD

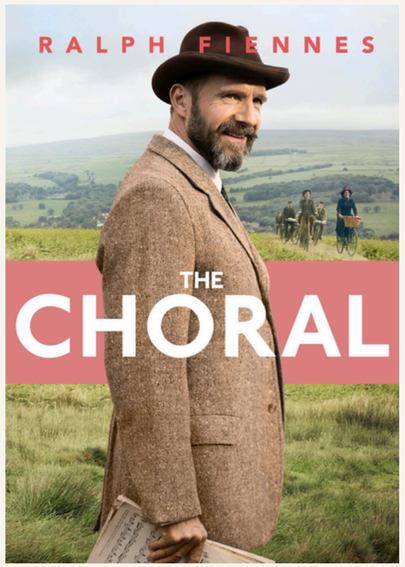
BITTERSWEET. WARM. OPTIMISTIC. FOCUS ON COMMUNITY.

COMPARABLES









BRIGHTON AT THE END OF THE WORLD

The faded pier. Pebbled beach. Regency terraces. The Dome. Churches. Charity shops. Incense emporiums. Pride flags. Seagulls. So many seagulls. Narrow streets running towards an enormous sea.

As humanity disappears, Brighton becomes simultaneously more beautiful and more surreal.

And above everything, growing brighter each day: the asteroid which will soon hit the horizon across the sea.

FADED BRITISH SEASDIDE GLAMOR, ODDBALLS AND A HORIZON

MUSIC AS A CHARACTER

In this film, music has an arc of its own. Singing in a group releases endorphins, reduces stress and inspires awe. The audience needs to feel this too.

At first disjointed, on the edges. At first, the choir is decidedly not good: individual voices fighting one another.

With Claire's guidance and Peter's encouragement, individual voices disappear into harmony. It brings people together, moves them and gives them all something they've been missing.

Music becomes the physical expression of the film's central idea:

We are greater together, even if we're not working towards something profound or lasting.

Choir! Choir! Choir! is an inspiration and reference

NO GRAND SCARIFICE. NO HEROIC SAVIOURS.

JUST A RAGTAG COMMUNITY WITH A FINAL JOYFUL ACT

The Dome burns down. The concert appears finished. Claire breaks.

But the community she helped create refuses to stop. They build a stage on Brighton Pier.

Claire returns. She conducts. Hundreds sing.

The asteroid strikes beyond the horizon. There is no screaming. People simply move closer together.

Claire closes her eyes — and smiles.

THE LAST CHOIR

THE WORLD IS ENDING.
TIME FOR ONE MORE SONG.