

Film Notes

By Dan Hawkins

Sentimental Value

2025 | 133mins

Director: Joachim Trier

Starring: Elle Fanning, Renate Reinsve, Stellan Skarsgård

      @FilmBathUK



Joachim Trier's romantic drama *The Worst Person in the World* (2021) was a breakout success, cementing his reputation as one of Norway's most vital filmmakers and propelling lead actress Renate Reinsve to international acclaim. The film swept up nominations and earned recognition from both BAFTA and the Academy Awards. It's unsurprising that Trier and Reinsve reunite for the highly anticipated drama *Sentimental Value*.

They are joined by Stellan Skarsgård, a veteran presence in both European arthouse and Hollywood cinema. While many audiences know him from mainstream hits like *Good Will Hunting* (1997), *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and *Mamma Mia!* (2008), Skarsgård has long balanced studio projects with a deep commitment to Scandinavian film, including five collaborations with Danish provocateur Lars von Trier and, more recently, a leading role in the acclaimed Norwegian drama *Hope* (2019).

In *Sentimental Value*, Reinsve stars as stage actor Nora, who - along with her sister Agnes (Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas) - reconnects with their estranged father Gustav (Stellan Skarsgård) following their mother's death. Gustav, once a celebrated filmmaker hoping for a comeback, offers Nora the lead in his new project. When she refuses, he casts an ambitious young Hollywood actress (Elle Fanning) in her place, thrusting an outsider into the heart of an already fragile family.

With characteristic precision, Trier explores fractured relationships - between sisters, between fathers and daughters, and between art and life - crafting an intimate yet layered family drama. Already celebrated on the festival circuit, including a remarkable 19-minute standing ovation at Cannes, *Sentimental Value* looks poised to be another crossover hit at the box office for Trier and Reinsve - this time with Skarsgård and Fanning adding their star power to the mix.

'Joachim has this gift for writing incredible scripts that pull everyone into their vision. Every time I work with Joachim, I learn so much about my own life and relationships. When I'm lucky enough to play one of his characters, I find it has a powerful imprint on my own life'

- Renate Reinsve

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here

Excellent

Fair

Poor



Did You Know?

- Cinematographer Kasper Tuxen shot on 35mm Kodak film to capture a warm, nostalgic look that matches the story's themes of memory.
- This was the biggest co-production of Trier's career – bringing together producers from five countries (Norway, France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden).
- At Cannes 2025, the film not only won the Grand Prix award, but reportedly received a 19 minute standing ovation, one of the longest of the year.



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August: Osage County (2013)
When the patriarch of the Weston family goes missing, his three daughters return to their Oklahoma estate to confront the fractured relationships that have long haunted them.



Hope (2019)
The relationship between artist-partners Tomas and Anja is put to the test after Anja gets a life-threatening diagnosis. Starring Stellan Skarsgård.



The Worst Person in the World (2021)
Directed by Joachim Trier, follows Julie, a young woman in Oslo navigating the turbulence of her late twenties. Unsure about her career, relationships, and life path, Julie struggles to reconcile her desires with societal and personal expectations.

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