



"My rock had 'Blackpool' written through it! I demand a refund!"

FILM ★★★ DVD ★★★★★ BLU-RAY ★★★★★

Brighton Rock

It's not easy doing Greene...

OUT 20 June STUDIO Optimum Releasing DIRECTOR Rowan Joffe STARS Sam Riley, Andrea Riseborough, Helen Mirren

Brighton Rock retold in the '60s? Quick, rally the Greene purists! Or you could consider the fact that Rowan Joffe's adaptation features the ending Greene originally wrote...

Some of the details may have changed, but this is still the same grim story. Razorblade-wielding nasty Pinkie Brown (Sam Riley) befriends teashop waitress Rose (Andrea Riseborough), who - unfortunately for her - happens to be in a position to incriminate him. And by "befriends", we mean "tries to consign her to a life of grotty bedsits".

There's much to commend Joffe's adap, from the cream-of-Brit-crop cast (including John Hurt and an excellent Helen Mirren) to the film's haunting, dreamlike feel, which makes its flashes of anger and violence seem all the more shocking when they flare up.

It all mingles together to form an oddly impersonal experience - even Rose, essentially the victim of the piece, never quite manages to find her way into our hearts. What Joffe does achieve, however, is to show us a different side of Pinkie, not to mention delving further into the relationship (if you can call it that) between him and Rose. Is it the definitive Brighton Rock? No. But Joffe's take on the novel didn't deserve the largely sniffy reception it got and there's certainly room for this take on the story.

DVD: There's a very decent rundown of extras here, full of people who actually have something interesting to say. As well as plenty of analysis of Greene's book and the original film adaptation, there are interviews with Riley and Riseborough, and some absorbing production segments.

The director's chatter is droll on the alternative opening storyboard, which was drawn back when he "thought we had lots of money". That's just one of five talky bits that Joffe has

recorded (along with three interviews and a feature commentary with editor Joe Walker). Clearly, the man likes to talk about his film, making a decent case for his Mod-era re-imagining in the extended interview. "It's a strong enough piece of literature, it deserves more than one adaptation," he challenges (viewers taken with this Mod lark will appreciate the inclusion of Kenneth Hume's short film, Mods And Rockers).

The '60s was an era befitting of Greene, Joffe adds, and any notion of making a version of Brighton Rock set in the now was quickly abandoned once he realised modern laws, and technology, would scupper a number of key plot devices. **BLU-RAY:** The dual-format edition bundles both DVD and Blu-ray copies, featuring the same extras. **Anne Wollenberg**

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