



presents

A QUIET PASSION

A film by Terence Davies



126 min | Belgium, United Kingdom | 2016 | PG-13 | 2.35:1

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FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Special Gala Presentation – 2016 Berlinale International Film Festival

Official Selection – 2016 Toronto International Film Festival

Official Selection – 2016 New York Film Festival

Official Selection – 2016 Chicago International Film Festival 2016

Modern Masters Selection – 2017 Palm Springs International Film Festival

SUMMARY

Cynthia Nixon delivers a triumphant performance as Emily Dickinson as she personifies the wit, intellectual independence and pathos of the poet whose genius only came to be recognized after her death. Acclaimed British director Terence Davies (*House of Mirth*, *The Deep Blue Sea*) exquisitely evokes Dickinson's deep attachment to her close-knit family along with the manners, mores and spiritual convictions of her time that she struggled with and transcended in her poetry.

LOGLINE

Cynthia Nixon personifies the wit, intellectual independence, and pathos of 19th Century American poet Emily Dickinson in this masterful biographical drama from acclaimed director Terence Davies (*House of Mirth*).

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Emily Dickinson was first featured in Terence Davies' work in his 2008 visual ode to Liverpool, *Of Time and The City*, which contained Terence reading Dickinson Poem 301.

*I reason, Earth is short -- / And Anguish -- absolute -- / And many hurt, / But, what of that? I reason, we could die --
/ The best Vitality / Cannot excel Decay, / But, what of that? I reason, that in Heaven -- / Somehow, it will be even --
/ Some new Equation, given -- / But, what of that?*

"The poetry is so sublime, I think she is America's greatest poet, and she should be read." Said Terence. Working with the same producers from *Of Time and The City*, Roy Boulter and Sol Papadopoulos, Terence began development on *A Quiet Passion* in 2012.

"Emily Dickinson is one of America's greatest poets." Sol enthused. "When Terence said he wanted to tell her story we were skeptical – a film about a morbid, obsessed recluse?! But then the script arrived and we're still laughing. It's a work of enormous wit and pathos."

Casting

When it came to casting Emily, there was only ever one actress for Terence. "I wrote the screenplay with Cynthia in mind," Davies said. "It was the kind of dream casting you hope for. I never, for a moment, imagined my wishes would materialize."

"Our producer Sol, in a former life, was a photographer. Sol took Cynthia's photograph, and he superimposed her face onto the daguerreotype of Emily Dickinson. She looked exactly like her. I knew she was right."

"We didn't know it at the time but when we approached Cynthia she was already a huge fan of Emily Dickinson, having grown up with her work." Sol remembered. "She's the perfect fit – a performance that's truly breathtaking."

A Dickinson aficionado, Cynthia became officially attached to the project in late 2012. She was enthralled to play one of America's favorite poets; "She wrote so many poems, almost 1800 poems. They're intensely personal. Some of them are very ecstatic, and some of them are deeply sad, and some of them are both of those things at once, and sometimes you feel as if she is speaking directly to you. I guess I've always felt a kinship to her."

American stars Jennifer Ehle, Keith Carradine and Emma Bell all became attached to the project in early 2015, bringing even more internationally celebrated actors into the Dickinson family.

Sol remembers, "It was a long search for our supporting cast, but, like all journeys, we arrived at the perfect ensemble, with Jennifer Ehle and Keith Carradine taking on the roles of Emily's sister and father."

The film also featured a melee of international talent from the UK, and Belgium, including Jodhi May, the youngest ever winner of the Cannes Best Actress Award, who had previously worked with Terence Davies on *House of Mirth*.

"Our experience in Belgium was superlative in every department – even the few spoken parts cast there totally delighted our director Terence." Hurricane Films producer Sol commented. "We are now looking to shoot more productions there!"

The Crew

Whilst the majority of the cast was new to Terence, for the crew he looked a little closer to home. Having worked with producers Roy Boulter and Sol Papadopoulos on the acclaimed documentary *Of Time and The City* and last year's emotive drama *Sunset Song*, Terence once again turned to the Hurricane Films duo to produce *A Quiet Passion*.

The producers have been vital to Terence. "Roy and Sol's support has been key over these past few years – we've all become family."

Roy and Sol relished the prospect of developing the project. "When Roy and I first received the script, it arrived on a Saturday morning." Sol recalled. "We both thought, well, there goes the weekend – no doubt we're about to embark on a very depressing journey through the life of Emily Dickinson! Then we both had the same experience – we started laughing out loud. The sharpness of the language, the wit of the characters – of course Emily had to be funny! Terence delivered a delightful script that surprised us all."

Hurricane Films producers Roy Boulter and Sol Papadopoulos collaborated with co-producers Peter De Maegd and Tom Hameeuw from Potemkino. "Our co-producers in Belgium were exceptional. They were perfect partners in what was never a straightforward operation. What film is? Every challenge was overcome with great collaborative spirit."

In order to attain exceptional visuals to accompany the magnificent script, Terence turned to a Director of Photography he had worked with previously, Florian Hoffmeister. Having worked with Florian on *The Deep Blue Sea* in 2011, Terence enthused about pairing with the talented DoP once more. "I've been fortunate in my film career to work with some of the geniuses of Cinematography – Florian is among them, he is a true artist."

Filming

In May 2015, *A Quiet Passion* began filming in AED Studios in Belgium. In order to authentically capture the feel and essence of Emily's home, the team in Belgium brought Massachusetts life to Antwerp, reconstructing interiors from the Dickinson Homestead in the studio.

Whilst on set of *A Quiet Passion*, Terence Davies declared himself "the happiest I've been in over forty years of filmmaking". Of Cynthia's captivating take on Emily, he said, "We spent an afternoon doing all the poetry, just as a guide track, as some of the shots are timed to the poems. When we were in post-production, Cynthia's agent asked if we wanted to do ADR, and I said no, they were just so wonderfully read."

Of the film, Sol said, "The shoot in Belgium is what every producer dreams of. A great cast and crew working happily to schedule, only 15 minutes outside the great city of Antwerp."

In June, after 6 weeks in Belgium, the shoot moved to the USA. In Amherst, the Dickinson hometown, the team filmed at the Emily Dickinson Museum and Homestead; Emily's former home. Here they captured the lush Massachusetts exteriors.

The soundtrack to the film features a combination of pre-existing tracks, piano solos and orchestral pieces. The pieces were hand-selected by Terence. "When writing, at the end of the film, I thought, it needs something, it needs something. And then I remembered Charles Ives. He wrote two wonderful pieces; *Decoration Day* and *The Unanswered Question*. I knew they were right; you have to feel it, it comes instinctively."

The two Ives pieces were orchestral numbers recorded in Belgium, featuring artists from the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra, whilst the piano solos were taped in the Royal College Manchester.

In March 2016, the film premiered at Berlinale International Film Festival. Finally bringing his Emily Dickinson to the big screen delighted Terence.

“If people went to the film and then started reading her poetry, that would be an achievement, because I think she deserves it.” Said Terence. “She had a posthumous reputation, and I think that’s very very unfair, I don’t know how great artists bear that. She deserves to be applauded forever.”

BIOGRAPHIES & FILMOGRAPHIES

Terence Davies – Director/Writer

Terence Davies is an English screenwriter and film director. He is the sole screenwriter of all his films, and his films are often at least partially autobiographical.

After the success of his short- to medium-length film series The Terence Davies Trilogy, Terence wrote and directed his critical acclaimed *Distant Voices, Still Lives*, which was voted the third greatest British film of all time in a 2011 *Time Out* Magazine poll.

After finding further success with *The Long Day Closes* and *Neon Bible*, in 2000 Terence wrote and directed *The House of Mirth*, based on Edith Wharton's novel of the same name. *Of Time and the City* in 2008 saw Terence return to his native Liverpool, and the film premiered out of competition at the 2008 Cannes film festival.

Continuing his partnership with producers Sol Papadopoulos and Roy Boulter from *Of Time and The City*, 2015 saw the release of *Sunset Song*, based on Lewis Grassie Gibbon's novel of the same name, whilst 2016 will see the much-awaited release of *A Quiet Passion*, a biopic on the life of Emily Dickinson.

As one of the most respected British Film makers, Terence became a Fellow of the British Film Institute in 2007.

Cynthia Nixon – Emily Dickinson

Cynthia Nixon made her Broadway debut in *The Philadelphia Story* in 1980 at the age of 14 and appeared alongside Tatum O'Neal in the film *Little Darlings* later that same year. She followed those successes with roles in two Broadway plays: Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing* and David Rabe's *Hurlyburly*. In 1995, she received her first Tony Award nomination for her work in *Indiscretions*.

Nixon gained an international audience by creating the role of Miranda Hobbes in HBO's hugely successful *Sex and the City*, a role for which she received her first Emmy award in 2004.

Nixon continued to prove her versatility with roles on both stage and screen. She drew praise from critics and audiences for her portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt in *Warm Springs* (2005), and won her first Tony Award in 2006 for her performance as a grief-stricken mother in *Rabbit Hole*. In 2008 she won her second Emmy for her guest role in *Law and Order: SVU*, and the following year received a Grammy for the audiobook of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*.

After returning to play Miranda Hobbes in two *Sex and the City* movies, in 2012, Nixon was nominated for her third Tony award, for her role in Margaret Edson's *Wit*.

Jennifer Ehle – Lavinia 'Vinnie' Dickinson

Jennifer is an award-winning stage and screen actress. She has won two Tony Awards, the first for the Broadway revival of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*, and the second for her portrayal of three characters in Stoppard's *The Coast of Utopia*. She earned a BAFTA award for her performance in the television adaptation of Jane Austen's classic *Pride and Prejudice*. She was nominated for a second BAFTA for her performance in *Wilde*, and received wide critical acclaim for her role in the film *Sunshine* directed by Istvan Szabo.

Jennifer's most recent film credits include Terence Davies' *A Quiet Passion*; Ira Sachs' *Little Men*; Rob Burnett's *The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving*; and *Zero Dark Thirty* directed by Kathryn Bigelow. Prior to that, Jennifer appeared in Steven Soderbergh's *Contagion*; George Clooney's *The Ides of March*; Tom Hooper's *The King's Speech* and Gavin O'Connor's *Pride and Glory*.

Keith Carradine – Mr. Dickinson

Keith Carradine has starred in over seventy feature films, five Broadway shows and has released two LP Albums of his music. His song “I’m Easy” won an Academy Award for the film *Nashville*. Carradine has worked with the best and most daring filmmakers, including Robert Altman for *McCabe and Mrs. Miller*, *Thieves Like Us* and *Nashville*; Alan Rudolph for *Welcome To L.A.*, *Choose Me* and *The Moderns* and Walter Hill for *The Longriders* and *Southern Comfort* and now Terence Davies for *A Quiet Passion*.

Recent film appearances include *Ain’t Them Bodies Saints* opposite Casey Affleck and Rooney Mara and *Cowboys and Aliens* opposite Daniel Craig and Harrison Ford. He currently stars as President Conrad Dalton on the CBS hit series, *Madam Secretary*. Other recent television series roles include Wild Bill Hickok on HBO’s *Deadwood*, Special Agent Frank Lundy on Showtime’s *Dexter* and Lou Solverson on FX’s *Fargo*.

Keith Carradine began his career on stage, starring in the original Broadway production of *Hair*. He created the title role in the original Broadway production of *The Will Rogers Follies*, receiving both a Tony nomination for his performance. In 2013 he was again nominated for a Tony for his portrayal of J.D. Drew in *Hands on a Hardbody*.

Jodhi May – Susan Gilbert

Jodhi May is the youngest ever recipient of the Best Actress Award, winning at aged 13 for *A World Apart* in 1988. She studied English at Oxford University, and has had a career that spans theatre, film and television.

Her career in feature film includes roles in *The Last of the Mohicans*, *The House of Mirth* and *Ginger and Rosa*. After playing Anne Boleyn in the BBC adaptation of *The Other Boleyn Girl* in 2003, May has featured on a number of other television shows and films, including *Emma*, *Strike Back* and *Game of Thrones*.

Catherine Bailey – Miss Vryling Buffam

Catherine started acting at the age of 12 when she landed the lead role of Helen Green in *Uncle Jack & Cleopatra’s Mummy*, a BBC television series starring Paul Jones and Fenella Fielding. She went on to appear as Ilse in Tim Supple’s acclaimed production of *Spring Awakening* at the RSC at the age of 15, and her next role was as Gina Wild, the rebellious teenage Goth in the BBC comedy *The Wild House*.

Notable television appearances since then have included: *Holby City*, *EastEnders*, *Peak Practice*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *The Bill*, *My Family*, *House of Anubis*, *The Sarah Jane Adventures* and *Midsomer Murders*.

Catherine was most recently treading the boards of Shakespeare’s Globe playing Portia in Dominic Dromgoole’s *Julius Caesar* and Penelope Wedgewood in Howard Brenton’s new first world war play *Doctor Scroggy’s War*.

Emma Bell – Young Emily Dickinson

With roles in hit TV series including *Dallas*, *Arrow*, *The Walking Dead* and *Dollhouse*, and a film career including hits such as *Final Destination 5* and *Life Inside Out*, Emma Bell stars in *A Quiet Passion* as young Emily Dickinson.

In 2010 Nylon named Bell as one of the “55 Faces of the Future.” 2016 saw Bell direct her first short, *Scratch*, starring Bel Delia, Camron Roberson and Alexandra Bard.

Duncan Duff – Austin Dickinson

Duncan Duff is a versatile Scottish actor who has been working in the business for over twenty-five years. He attended Liverpool University studying history, before changing his path and training as an actor at RADA. He has performed at the Nation Theatre, the Donmar Warehouse and the Royal Court in London. He has also toured around Europe, Asia and South America with theatre companies.

Duff has appeared on acclaimed TV shows including *The Tudors*, *Doctor Who*, and *Skins*. Additionally, he was a voice actor for the 2014 video game *LEGO: The Hobbit*. Duff has appeared in films, both feature and short, one of which (*The Girls*, 2007) was nominated for a British Independent Film Award.

CREW

Roy Boulter - Producer

Following a successful career in music as a member of the chart-topping band The Farm, Roy turned to scriptwriting, gaining over a hundred and thirty television writing credits – including an eight year stint on Brookside, as well as working on *The Bill* and the initial pilot series of *Hollyoaks* for Channel Four.

He became a company director of Hurricane Films in 2001; writing, producing and directing projects for the company as well continuing with freelance writing work for radio and television – including the second – BAFTA winning series of Jimmy McGovern's *The Street* and most recently *EastEnders*. Together with Sol Papadopoulos, Roy produced *Of Time and The City*, for which they received a BAFTA nomination (The Foreman Award – special achievement by a British producer for their first feature film).

Sol Papadopoulos - Producer

Sol began his creative life as a stills photographer before progressing on to moving image following a 16mm course at the National Film School. After making documentaries and short dramas as a freelancer for all the major broadcasters - collecting numerous awards along the way – he founded Hurricane Films in March 2000. The ethos to tell great stories - whether fact or fiction is what drives him.

Sol's documentary work has taken him all over the world shooting from the decks of the world's largest aircraft carrier out of Pearl Harbour to the deserts of the Middle East. Together with Roy Boulter, Sol produced the Terence Davies film *Of Time and The City*, which premiered at the Cannes film festival in 2008. He includes six Royal Television Awards and two BAFTA nominations among his many plaudits.

Florian Hoffmeister – Director of Photography

Having studied directing and cinematography at Berlin's German Film And Television Academy, Florian Hoffmeister has established himself as a distinct, versatile young voice amongst internationally working cinematographers.

His work includes acclaimed international TV projects such as *5 Days* (nominated for the 2008 golden globe), *House Of Saddam* (2009 BAFTA nomination Best Photography Fiction), as well as Terence Davies' *The Deep Blue Sea*.

In 2012 / 2013 he became the first cinematographer to win an EMMY, a BAFTA, as well as the prestigious ASC award with the same programme: his work on the TV mini series *Great Expectations*. He is a member of British Society Of Cinematographers (BSC), and has worked as a cinematographer for 32 projects.

Merijn Sep – Production Designer

With a background in Art Direction and Construction Supervision, Merijn Sep is a talented and respected production designer.

In 2012, Sep worked as Art Director on the BBC/HBO Television Serial *Parade's End*, an adaptation of Ford Madox Ford's novel of the same name, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Rebecca Hall.

More recently, he has worked as Art Director on the BBC Production *The Missing* starring James Nesbitt.

Pia Di Ciaula – Editing

From World War I drama in 1997's *Regeneration* to an examination of individual violence in *Tyrannosaur*, Pia Di Ciaula's diverse cinematic career makes for sparkling viewing.

In 2013, Pia edited the hit film *Belle*, starring Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Matthew Goode. In the TV world, she edited the acclaimed BBC Miniseries *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, starring Gemma Arterton and Eddie Redmayne, as well as four episodes of Jimmy McGovern's *The Street*.

CAST & CREW

CAST

Emily Dickinson	Cynthia Nixon
Lavinia Dickinson	Jennifer Ehle
Susan Gilbert	Jodhi May
Miss Vryling Buffam	Catherine Bailey
Young Emily Dickinson	Emma Bell
Austin Dickinson	Duncan Duff
Mr. Dickinson	Keith Carradine

CREW

Written and Directed by	Terence Davies
Produced by	Roy Boulter
	Solon Papadopoulos
Co-Producers	Peter De Maegd
	Tom Hameeuw
Executive Producers	Andrea Gibson
	Jason Van Eman
	Ross Marroso
	Ben McConley
	Ron Moring
	Jason Moring
	Genevieve Lemal
	Alain-Gilles Ianno
	Stuart Pollock
Co-Executive Producer	Mary MacLeod
Director of Photography	Florian Hoffmeister, B.S.C.
Production Designer	Merijn Sep
Edited by	Pia di Cialua
Music Supervisor	Ian Neil
Costume Designer	Catherine Marchand
Casting	John Hubbard
	Ros Hubbard

About Music Box Films

Founded in 2007, Music Box Films is a North American distributor of acclaimed international, American independent and documentary features. Recent releases include Hannes Holm's **A MAN CALLED OVE** nominated for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Achievement in Makeup & Hairstyling (Love Larson & Eva von Bahr) at the 89th Academy Awards, Anne Fontaine's World War II drama **THE INNOCENTS** and the nature documentary **SEASONS** from the directors of **WINGED MIGRATION**. Upcoming releases include François Ozon's **FRANTZ** and Alon Schwarz's documentary **AIDA'S SECRETS**. Music Box Films is independently owned and operated the Southport Music Box Corporation, which also owns and operates the Music Box Theatre, Chicago's premiere venue for independent and foreign films. For more information, please visit www.musicboxfilms.com

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