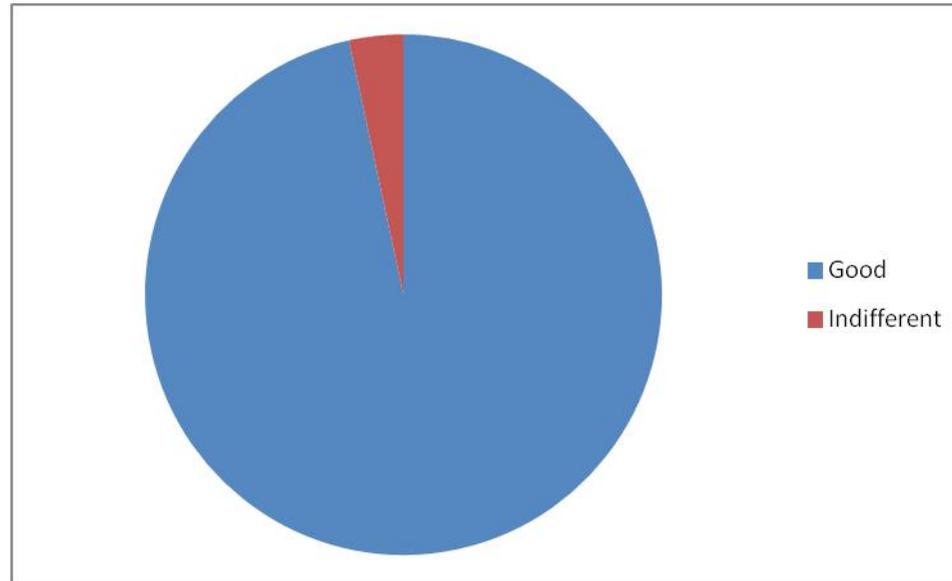


### Review – Philomena



Good – 57	Indifferent – 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the ending felt contrived, it would be interesting to compare book with film script.</li> <li>• Brilliant in every respect. Judi Dench should definitely have been given the Oscar instead of Cate Blanchett. This film was probably one of the best we have seen in a long while and will stay in my mind indefinitely. Loved the humorous touches that lightened such a profound and tragic story. Thank you.</li> <li>• This was a very sensitive treatment of a heart-wrenching story.</li> <li>• I saw it before your showing and loved it. Judy Dench was excellent as ever and she and Steve Coogan acted out their parts with great pathos and it was immensely moving.</li> <li>• Exceedingly good.</li> <li>• Very good.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I didn't see it because I'd already seen it at the Majestic - it's disappointing that for the second month running you've shown a film that has already been shown in town.</li> </ul>

- Very sad but with some funny moments.
- First rate film. Wonderful performance by Judy Dench. Raised serious and sad issues, but managed to remain uplifting. Loved it.
- Don't usually comment but as coordinator for the local humanist group think I should applaud this well made and very pertinent film.
- Thoroughly enjoyable.
- A lovely film to watch with a good mix of humour to lift the sadness of the story. I was surprised how well Steve Coogan portrayed Martin Sixsmith.
- Much better than I expected with excellent performances from Coogan and Dench. Sentimental but what else could it be with the horror of the Magdalene laundries?
- We thought Philomena was good.
- Really enjoyed this film. What a brilliant actress - totally believable portrayal of that sad, haunted lady.
- Very, very! Wonderful film, brilliant acting by all the cast – and a story which had to be told. I will never forget the emotions etched on Philomena's face.
- I was pleasantly surprised as I was expecting something more Hollywood and sentimental but it had a light touch while still addressing quite disturbing issues and allowing the viewer to decide how they felt rather than ramming the message home endlessly. Judi Dench can never be anything but Judi Dench, bless her...
- I thought the film was very good.
- Having worked with many elderly ladies who were forced or encouraged to give up a baby for adoption, sometimes not realising what they had got themselves into as many were so naive in those days, it was a good picture of a sad story. Judy Dench portrayed the nervous chattering, hopeful, then disappointed, sad and occasionally happy lady very truthfully and well. I think Steve Coogan's representation of Martin Sixsmith in often frustrating situations also was very good. The American landscape seemed boring to me but of course the film wasn't about that. And the nuns just terrible. A good cinema evening.
- Absolutely excellent in fact! Couldn't fault it. A proper story, very emotive, and emotional, as well as thought-provoking. Extremely well-acted by all concerned and stunning visual impact.
- Philomena was very good. A sensitive exploration of a harrowing story.

- We really enjoyed the film, so well acted by Judi Dench and were so surprised by Steve Coogan's portrayal. Awful story well told.
- Thoroughly enjoyed the film. One of the best films.
- Brilliant! Steve Coogan for once managing not to be Steve Coogan. Dame Judi wonderful.
- Excellent in fact. Brilliant performances by Steve Coogan and Judi Dench. A very moving film.
- I thought Philomena was very good indeed. Whilst being really moving, it was also much funnier than I expected it to be. I'd missed it in the cinema on its release and had deliberately not looked at the story before watching at the film club, which I am pleased about. The direction was very well judged; almost understated, which I liked, as it allowed the characters to develop, and the acting was excellent. I especially liked Steve Coogan, who I have only previously seen in comedy roles.
- I thought the film was very good. A good turnout for a very nice evening.
- Very good. Thank you, committee.
- I had seen Philomena before and enjoyed it just as much last night. Second time around I appreciated the fine acting and handling of a sensitive subject. I wish I had left when the main film ended as I was embarrassed by having to leave during discussions after the short film because one of my guests had to pick up her daughter. I was however pleased to have seen Like Love and appreciate that sometimes the best made plans can encounter difficulties.
- Both principles well portrayed.
- I'd no idea that her son had died - I didn't see that coming.
- Excellent, thank you.
- Had already seen it but enjoyed and was moved by it just as much the 2nd time.
- I thought that Judi Dench and Steve Coogan were excellent. At least there were light hearted moments against a heartrending story.
- I actually saw this film on a plane three weeks ago, so didn't come last night. I really enjoyed it and thought the acting was excellent. I hope you get good reviews. Hadn't realised that you were going to show a short film by Sarah Cunningham - perhaps I didn't read my emails properly.
- We both thought it was very good.
- It was great - funny and moving.

- To condense grief and humour, in one character, in a couple of hours, could have resulted in the character being too mercurial as if with bi-polar. Instead we see a well-rounded individual of great charm.
- Judi Dench does it again - she inhabits all the characters she portrays, even Steve Coogan gave an unusually, and quite appropriate, subdued performance.
- I thought it was excellent and the performances brilliant. It's one of those films which could so easily have been schmaltzy and predictable but wasn't. I keep thinking about it a lot ever since. My friend wondered whether the moments of humour detracted from the seriousness of it but I found they actually increased the pathos by making it more believable. I lived in Ireland for 3 years and I can totally believe everything that happened in that film. There are so many innocent victims of the Church's bigotry and downright evil, still living in Ireland. Thanks also for hanging back with the results of this survey until after the weekend. I'm not always able to get into my emails for a few days so I've missed taking part in recent surveys.
- Excellent, very much enjoyed Philomena.
- Funnier than I expected, would be interesting to know what the Vatican has to say about it all.
- The three of us thought the film was good, and the (true) story was portrayed very movingly by Judi Dench and Steve Coogan, who were both excellent.
- I had seen it before but enjoyed seeing it a second time as I got more out of it.
- The film has received positive reviews since its release and it certainly didn't disappoint. Judi Dench always gives a strong performance and Steve Coogan's portrayal of Martin Sixsmith was excellent. Coogan has gone up in my estimation. It was a harrowing story made more so by the misguided rulings within the Catholic church within our recent memory. A good film. Thank you for another double bill.
- Thankfully stopped short of being mawkish.