



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

A YEAR IN A FIELD (12A)

Director: Christopher Morris

UK, 2023, 1 hour 26 minutes

Weathering the elements in the centre of a field in West Cornwall is the Longstone, a natural relic that has quietly witnessed 4,000 years of tumultuous history. Morris' elegiac, meditative, yet profoundly important film is the record of a year in the life of the monolith, beginning on Winter Solstice 2020, as the order of the natural world began unravelling around the globe and the threat of extreme climate change became a reality. Beautifully shot, with a richly layered sound design, the film meditates on the passage of time through its appreciation of nature, highlighting the subtle changes of the seasons, but also the need to act in order to battle man-made changes that will forever change our planet. - **Cineuropa**

It is a rock documentary but there is no pounding music, no terrible behaviour, no bombastic characters. Instead, the 86-minute film tells the slow but compelling story of 12 months in the life of a 4,000-year-old stone that stands sentinel in the Cornish landscape. "The overarching theme that emerged is my own inability to grapple with the climate crisis," said Morris. "What am I supposed to do? How am I supposed to react to things that are happening in Brazil – a place I've never been to – or the Arctic? I've never strapped myself to a tree, never even been on a protest march. That's not in my nature, that's not me. But standing quietly in a field, a sort of one-man direct action seemed kind of appealing to me." - **The Guardian**

A Year in a Field's glacial pacing can't help but emphasise the beauty of what is being lost – Morris's photography is sublime – but the beauty is inherent in nature's communal organisation, nothing to do with aesthetics (not to minimise the loveliness of the pink, white, and yellow wildflowers glimpsed on screen). Underscored by stringed instrument music that veers between plaintive and grating, perhaps intentionally, the slowness is agitating because Morris contrasts it with the speed at which we're imperilling the planet according to Einstein's Doomsday Clock. - **The Arts Desk**

Notes compiled by Holly Dennison

If you liked **A YEAR IN A FIELD**, you may also enjoy:

THAT THEY MAY FACE THE RISING SUN (12A) - Based on Irish author John McGahern's award winning novel of the same name, this quiet portrait of a rural Irish community in the 1980s is beautifully told.