

Angela's Ashes (1999)

TOMATOMETER

ALL CRITICS

52%

Average Rating: 5.7/10
Reviews Counted: 85
Fresh: 44
Rotten: 41

TOP CRITICS

38%

Average Rating: 5.3/10
Reviews Counted: 26
Fresh: 10
Rotten: 16

Critics Consensus: In spite of its attempts to accurately record Frank McCourt's memoirs, the onscreen adaptation fails to capture any of the drama or humor of his life.

AUDIENCE SCORE

82%

liked it
Average Rating: 3.6/5
User Ratings: 22,563

MOVIE INFO

In 1935, when it is more common for Irish families to leave their famine-stricken country for America, the impoverished McCourt family do the reverse. Following the sudden death of her 7-week-old daughter, Angela and her unemployable, alcoholic husband, Malachy Sr. set sail from New York Harbour to Cork with their four children- Frank, Malachy Jr. and twins Eugene and Oliver- to return to the land which mystified young Frank had only heard of as 'where there was no work and people were dying of starvation and the damp.'

Rating: R (for sexual content and some language)
Genre: Art House & International, Drama
Directed By: Alan Parker
Written By: Frank McCourt, Laura Jones, Alan Parker
In Theaters: Dec 25, 1999 Limited
On DVD: Jul 18, 2000
Runtime: 2 hr. 25 min.
Paramount Pictures

[www.rottentomatoes.com]



Theatrical release poster

(Wikipedia)

***Angela's Ashes* (film)**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Angela's Ashes is a 1999 Irish-American drama film based on the memoir of the same name by Frank McCourt. It was co-written and directed by Alan Parker, and starred Emily Watson, Robert Carlyle, Joe Breen, Ciaran Owens, and Michael Legge, the latter three playing the Young, Middle and Older Frank McCourt respectively.

Overview

Angela's Ashes tells the story of Frank McCourt and his childhood after his family are forced to move from the United States back to Ireland because of financial difficulties and family problems caused by his father's alcoholism. The film chronicles young McCourt's life in Limerick, Ireland, during his childhood in the 1930s and 1940s, the difficulties that arose, and Frank's way of earning enough money to return to the land of his dreams: America.

Cast

- Emily Watson as Angela McCourt
- Robert Carlyle as Malachy McCourt
- Devon Murray as Middle Malachy
- Joe Breen as Young Frank
- Ciaran Owens as Middle Frank
- Michael Legge as Older Frank
- Kerry Condon as Theresa Carmody
- Ronnie Masterson as Grandma Sheehan
- Pauline McLynn as Aunt Aggie
- Liam Carney as Uncle Pa Keating
- Eanna MacLiam as Uncle Pat
- Susan Fitzgerald as Sister Rita
- Eamonn Owens as Quasimodo
- Eileen Colgan as Philomena
- Martin Benson as Christian brother

- Andrew Bennett as Narrator (voice)
- Alan Parker (*cameo*) as Dr. Campbell
- Brendan O'Carroll as Man in pub

Production

Although set in Limerick, many street scenes were filmed in Cork. For example, the 'fleas in the mattress' scene was filmed at Farren Street, Blackpool and other scenes were shot at Roche's Buildings, Lower John Street and Barrack Street.

Reception

With an estimated \$25 million budget, the film grossed \$13,042,112 in the U.S., making it a box office bomb.

Angela's Ashes currently holds a 52% 'rotten' rating on review aggregate website Rotten Tomatoes, and the consensus "In spite of its attempts to accurately record Frank McCourt's memoirs, the onscreen adaptation fails to capture any of the drama or humor of his life" (though the audience rating is considerably higher, at 82%.) However, Michael Legge was praised for his portrayal of the adolescent Frank. In particular, he was said to excel in his role as an innocent teenager growing up with typical coming of age rites involving sexuality, maturity and peer pressure in a Catholic Irish setting.

Differences from the novel

- In the novel, the opening paragraph describes Angela's upbringing and how Angela's brother Pat became developmentally disabled, by Angela's father dropping him on the ground when throwing him in the air and that an Angela's pregnant mother told him to leave, so he "ran out the door and didn't stop

till he got to Australia". The film completely omits this.

- In the film when Angela suggests naming Frank's new brother Alphonsus, and Frank exclaims that's a stupid name, in the film, Aggie smacks the back of Frank's head but in the novel, Angela slaps Frank across the face so hard, he reels backwards.
- In the film, Frank says that Irish dancers look like they have metal rods up their arses, but in the novel, Frank's father says that.
- At the end of the film it shows Frank sailing past the Statue of Liberty as he arrives in New York City. In the book he lands at Poughkeepsie.

Awards

- **Nominee** Best Original Score - Academy Awards (John Williams)
- **Nominee** Best Original Score - Golden Globes (John Williams)
- **Nominee** Best Actress - BAFTA (Emily Watson)
- **Nominee** Best Cinematography - BAFTA (Michael Seresin)
- **Nominee** Best Production Design - BAFTA (Geoffrey Kirkland)
- **Nominee** Best British Film - Empire Awards
- **Nominee** Best British Actor - Empire Awards (Robert Carlyle)
- **Winner** Best Picture - Irish Film and Television Awards
- **Winner** Best Costume Design - Irish Film and Television Awards (Consolata Boyle)
- **Nominee** Best Actress - Irish Film and Television Awards (Emily Watson)
- **Nominee** Best Actor - Irish Film and Television Awards (Robert Carlyle)
- **Winner** Best Director - Karlovy Vary International Film

Festival (Audience Award) (Alan Parker)

- **Winner** Best Original Score - Las Vegas Film Critics Society (John Williams)
- **Nominee** Newcomer of Year - London Film Critics Circle (Michael Legge)
- **Winner** Best Actress - London Film Critics Circle (Emily Watson)

Soundtrack

The film soundtrack was composed and conducted by John Williams, and features songs by Billie Holiday and Sinéad O'Connor. Williams was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Score in 2000 for his score.