

LADY BIRD



This independent film marks the solo directorial debut of actress Greta Gerwig, who also wrote the screenplay.

Lady Bird is an endearing comedy-drama set in 2002. Christine McPherson, played by Saoirse Ronan, is coming to the end of her time as a high school student in Sacramento. She wants to leave California and move to New York. Christine calls herself “Lady Bird” and insists that others do too, which her mother, Marion (played by Laurie Metcalf), finds ridiculous.

The opening scene sets the tone for the film, with Marion and Christine bickering in the car after a visit to a prospective university. In the heat of the argument, Christine throws herself out of the moving car and, miraculously, only breaks her arm. Their complicated relationship is a constant in *Lady Bird*.

This coming-of-age story revolves around the feeling of wanting to move away, only to realise the positives of where you come from. Other relevant aspects are the search for one's own identity, some of life's milestones, privilege, love, family and friendship.

Money is an overarching theme in *Lady Bird*. Although not wealthy like most of her peers, Christine attends a private high school where she does well academically. To Marion's dismay, who reproaches Christine that nothing is good enough for her, she jokes about being “from the wrong side of the tracks”. Her parents worry about money, as her father (Larry) is out of work and Marion has to support the family.

Throughout the film, Christine pursues various love interests that leave her disenchanted. She also tries to become a version of herself that is accepted by the popular kids.

From an acting point of view, the cast is remarkable. Alongside Ronan (*Atonement*, *The Lovely Bones*), it also features Timothée Chalamet (*Call Me by Your Name*, *Little Women*, *Dune*), and Lucas Hedges (*Ben is Back*, *Honey Boy*).

One thing that stands out about Gerwig's work is its balanced combination of light-heartedness and sensitivity. It is an innocent film, with a well-written script, likeable characters and some great feel-good moments, such as the prom scene. *Lady Bird* offers a nostalgic vision through its plot and aesthetic. In Gerwig's words, she “wanted the film to feel like a memory”.

Lady Bird is entertaining while providing some useful life lessons. Awarded *Best Motion Picture* and *Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture* at the 2018 Golden Globes, it is definitely a must-see film for indie film lovers.

You can find the *Lady Bird* DVD in our library.