



REVOLUTIONARY ROAD

Made by the British director Sam Mendes and based on the novel *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates, this is a 2008 romantic drama film set in Connecticut in the mid-1950s.

April (Kate Winslet), an aspiring actress, and Frank Wheeler (Leonardo DiCaprio), a longshoreman, meet at a party and immediately connect. After a while, they marry. Frank starts working as a salesman for Knox Machines, the same company his father worked for, and April abandons her failed acting career. They buy a beautiful house on suburban Revolutionary Road and have two children. They seem like the perfect couple. However, they both soon feel trapped; April is unhappy with her domestic life, and Frank with his job.

On Frank's 30th birthday, April suggests moving to Paris, where Frank once enjoyed living. Her plan is to work there as a secretary so that he can be free to find his true calling. Frank hesitantly agrees, and the Wheelers announce their decision to their social circle. Soon after, Mr. Pollock, one of Frank's superiors, tries to convince him to stay, offering him a lucrative career opportunity.

April reveals to Frank that she is pregnant but still wants them to move to Paris. However, Frank dissents and wants to accept Mr. Pollock's offer. A series of disagreements ensue, leading to tensions between the couple and a tragic outcome.

Sam Mendes, who has a background in theatre, also directed the triple Oscar-winning *American Beauty*. The excellent performances and Mendes' directorial work successfully convey the inner world of the protagonist couple. The characters have distinctive voices. Their lines are sometimes mundane while at other times very profound (“We're running from the hopeless emptiness of all life here, aren't we?”).

The highlight of the film is Kate Winslet's performance, for which she won the Golden Globe for Best Actress. In addition, Leonardo DiCaprio was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Actor, and Michael Shannon, who plays the character of John Givings Jr., their neighbour's son and a mentally ill mathematician, was nominated for an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor.

Revolutionary Road is a film well worth watching. Feel free to borrow the DVD from the library.