

THE NYC MOVIE GURU

Reviews for October 4th, 2013

<http://nycmovieguru.com/oct4th13.html#redwing>

Red Wing

Directed by Will Wallace



The instant that Maddie (Breann Johnson), a married woman, meets an orphaned 9-year-old boy, Francis Riley (Austin Harrod), she feels need to take care of him which she does despite that her mother-in-law (Frances Fisher) disapproves of bringing him into their countryside home. He becomes a part of Maddie's family, but as soon as he reaches adulthood, Francis (now played by Glen Powell), gets kicked out of Maddie's home because her husband, Carl (Luke Perry), suspects that he and Maddie have gotten too close as if they were a romantic couple. Francis starts afresh by accepting job on the ranch of Jim Varet (Bill Paxton). No matter how hard he tries to fit into his new home on the ranch, he never quite feels the same way he did while living with Maddie, the true love of his life.

Based on the novel "The Country Waif" by George Sands, *Red Wing* is a sweeping love story that tugs at your heartstrings from start to finish. From the

moment you meet Francis as a young boy, you'll find yourself caring about him and rooting for him to be happy, a task that's easier said than done. To attain that true love and happiness, he goes through many experiences that test both mentally and spiritually. His courage and kindheartedness remains intact no matter what. The love between Maddie and Francis is genuine, pure and profound, so when Francis experiences an epiphany about how he feels about her and makes a sacrifice, you sense that he's making the right decision. Kudos to casting directors Katrina Cook and Sara Wallace for choosing Glen Powell to play Francis. He's just the right actor to sink his teeth into the role of Francis believably---he's got looks and charisma to boot. Breann Johnson is also well-cast and gives a genuinely moving performance in the complex role of Maddie. Moreover, it's great to see Luke Perry convincingly tackle the dramatic role of Maddie's husband.

Director Will Wallace makes the most out of the picturesque scenery and brings out its beauty and purity that, in a way, reflects the purity of Francis' love toward Maddie. The soundtrack is also quite exceptional and adds a layer of richness to the film. Screenwriter Kathleen Orillion brings the novel to life in a way that's engaging and genuinely heartfelt. Some of the material does tap into dark territory, but she keeps it on a lighter note, so the film never feels too heavy or exhausting. To be fair, if *Red Wing* were darker, it wouldn't be as family-friendly and would have felt disjointed from its uplifting messages about the value of compassion and the importance of following your feet to the beat of your heart.

Number of times I checked my watch: 2
Released by Integrity Film Productions.
Opens in select theaters.

