



ABCD Online No. 3

January 2021

The Children Act

Britain 2017 105mins Cert 12A

Adapted by Ian McEwan from his eponymous 2014 novel, *The Children Act* is a disciplined, intelligent exploration of the heart of a marriage that is in danger of falling apart. In his novel, and in this adaptation, McEwan remains true to his original concepts that work and desire are the oil and water of civilised society, that rules protect us from chaos and that, without them, rational thought would be terrorised by moral banditry.

The central character of this month's film, Fiona Maye, is a highly successful and well-respected judge, specialising in difficult cases involving complex legal arguments and moral judgements. She takes on the case of Adam, a teenage boy who has cancer but refuses treatment (a blood transfusion) that would save his life. His parents are Jehovah's Witnesses whose beliefs lead them, on religious grounds, to also refuse medical intervention. Fiona believes passionately that the boy's life should be saved. In the event, her deep involvement in this fraught situation leads to dramatic and unforeseeable events, with devastating consequences.

Fiona's marriage to Jack, an academic, is childless and in the doldrums, mainly as a consequence of Fiona's intense devotion to her career. As a result, he is openly seeking new female companionship and his wife's near obsession with Adam's case provides a focus for and catalyst to this unhappy situation.

Acknowledgements: Angus Wolfe-Murray, *Eye for Film*

"Accompanied, appropriately enough, by Bach piano pieces, *The Children Act* is an unmitigated pleasure to watch and listen to, primarily as a showcase for Thompson's incomparable gifts as an actress"

Ann Hornaday. *Washington Post*

"*The Children Act* is that rarest of things: an adult drama, written and interpreted with a sensitivity to mature human concerns" Peter Debruge. *Variety*

Leading Players

Fiona Maye
Jack Maye
Adam Henry
Kevin Henry
Amadia Kalu QC

Emma Thompson
Stanley Tucci
Fionn Whitehead
Ben Chaplin
Nikki Amuka-Bird

Production Credits

Director	Richard Eyre
Producers	Duncan Kenworthy, Celia Duval <u>et al</u>
Screenplay	Ian McEwan
Cinematography	Andrew Dunn
Original Music	Stephen Warbeck, J S Bach

Zoom discussion meeting to take place

Thursday January 28th from 7.30pm to 8.15pm

Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99850875328?pwd=MIFzeFo5M2J4aWoraS95N0FMVVlWQT09>

Meeting ID: 998 5087 5328

Passcode: t9gpYK



ABCD Film Society Online

Tel: 01235-521976/522163

<https://abfilms.org.uk>

**CINEMA
FOR ALL**