

August Rush shown at July Meeting

Starring Freddie Highmore (Women Talking Dirty, Finding Neverland, most recently Bates Motel), Keri Russell (Felicity [TV series], Mission Impossible II), Jonathan Rhys Meyers (Michael Collins, Bend It Like Beckham) and Robin Williams (Good Morning Vietnam, Dead Poets Society), it tells the story of how a young abandoned child (Highmore as Evan Taylor) - who happens to be a musical prodigy - runs away from his children's home to discover who he is. At the same time his mother (Russell) is looking for him, and his father (Rhys Meyers) is seeking his mother (Evan was the result of a one night stand and his mother was told by her manipulative father that he died at birth). Robin Williams plays a Fagin like character (Maxwell "Wizard" Wallace) who runs a group of street musicians, creaming off a significant portion of their tips in return for shelter in an abandoned theatre. Wallace helps Evan discover and develop his astonishing musical talent but tries to exploit it for his own gain. Eventually, through a somewhat convoluted and coincident based plot, Evan (now known as August Rush) has a Rhapsody played in Central Park by the Philharmonic, on the same bill as his mother (unbeknown to him) returns as a cello soloist, and his father plays in his first gig in 11 years in New York with his family band.

The film was enjoyed by the members, who recognised it for what it was - a deliberately sentimental film aimed at being uplifting provided you overlooked the obvious manipulation

required to make the plot work. The cast was very good, even the supporting actors, with Robin Williams - cast against type - being particularly strong.

The biggest gripe was the usual one for a lot of American made films: at times (far too many) the dialogue was unintelligible either because of poor sound editing and/or overpowering incidental music, but this didn't detract too much from the film as the plot was easy enough to follow.