

## CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

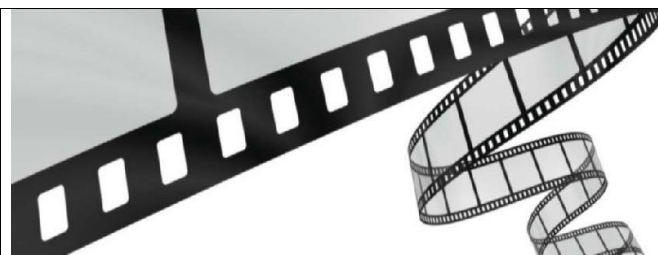
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**THE DEAD DON'T HURT**    Thursday 10 April 2025

Dir Viggo Mortenson

Canada/Mexico/USA

129 mins

Cast: Viggo Mortenson (Holger Olsen); Vicky Krieps (Vivienne Cloudy); Solly McLeod (Weston Jeffries); Danny Huston (Rudolph Schiller); Garret Dillahunt (Alfred Jeffries); Roy McKinnon (Judge Blanden).

Viggo Mortenson's second feature as director harks back to the revisionist Westerns of the 1970s in both themes and style. Some critics have seen affinities also with Kelly Reichardt's *Meek's Cutoff* (2010). He also stars as a Danish pioneer, Rudolph, trying to make a life for himself and his partner Vivienne (Vicky Krieps - remember her from our screening of *Corsage*?) in the American frontier during the start of the Civil War (1861-65). Both are outsiders and their relationship develops from this sense of not quite fitting into the new terrain, as exemplified by the choice of where Rudolph elects to build his cabin. However, greed and war will take its toll on their fragile happiness.

If you, like me, long for the day when Westerns will grace our cinema more, then this is a real treat and one of the highlights of 2024 (along with Kevin Costner's much maligned *Horizon* which, like this film, struggled to find an audience). Here, the scenery is breathtaking, the acting excellent and Mortensen proves to be as talented a director as he is an actor. The film is languid and unhurried, as the running time suggests, but then, when we have fast-paced blockbusters in every cinema, a slow-burn, high quality, well-paced film is always welcome.

Emma Rees

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Our next film: **MONSTER** on Tuesday 29 April which will bring our 2024/25 season to a close.

