

HELSINKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2013 ONES TO WATCH AT THIS YEARS FESTIVAL #1

Love Eternal (2013), 97 min

Love Eternal is written and directed by Irishman Brendan Muldowney, which is based on the Japanese novel, In Love With The dead by Kei Oishi. The story tells us about a young man (Ian / Robert de Hoog) who is exposed to death at an early age (6) and then again ten years later he discovers the body of a suicide victim, a girl from school. This causes him to become a total recluse, staying in his room and only communicating with the outside world via friends on the internet. He becomes fixated on death and plans his own suicide. After his mother's death and a failed suicide attempt Ian begins to connect with the outside world by searching out other people contemplating suicide.

Muldowney manages very well in transporting the Japanese novel to an obviously European location, while remaining non-descript as to where it is actually located. The film is pretty much devoid of any kind of distinct accents from a pan European cast. Muldowney gets solid performances from the central cast, in particular from the Dutch Robert de Hoog and the Scott Pollyanna McIntosh. Particular praise is merited to cinematographer Tom Comerford, who's visuals are beautiful and haunting at the same time.

Verdict: One to watch