

# Cannes 2015: Inside Out (Pete Docter, 2015)



I admit it, 100 per cent without shame: I'm a massive Disney/Pixar fan. I managed to stick with them through the years, even through the little blips in the repertoire, namely Cars and Monsters University (I took a year off for Cars 2 – I'm sorry). And so, everyone waited with bated breath when the company announced they were not releasing a 2014 feature. Good news though, they're back – and the fruit of their labour is their best film in five years.

*Inside the mind of an eleven year old girl, five personified emotions work tirelessly to make sure she's right on track: Joy, Disgust, Fear, Anger and Sadness. When she's forced to move from her snowy town in Minnesota to a townhouse in San Francisco, the group battle it out to control her feelings, ending in a disaster that all of them are struggling to solve.*

Inside Out becomes the Pixar film that finally readopts that sardonic, humorous warmth that has been missing in their last few efforts. An imaginative story, Pete Docter has crafted a world around his characters so deft that it's impossible not to love. There is immense detail that we haven't seen since they delved into the deep with Finding Nemo. A soaring selection of high-rise pinball towers; each little sphere a good, bad, mad or sad memory. Within this world, they come across the girl's old imaginary friend, Bing Bong. From him comes a lot of the film's childlike comic relief; both juvenile and yet smart.

Pixar have been noted for their casting choices, relying on talent rather than star names. A brief intermission to this rule comes in the casting of Amy Poehler. She takes on the

lead role of Joy – a blue haired, shimmering girl with a sugary joie-de-vivre that sets out to save the day when things go awry. Despite her distinctive voice, you forget who's behind her, thanks to Pixar's ability to create a character that goes beyond the person behind it.

The same can be said for the hysterical, utterly adorable Sadness. Dressed in a knitted turtle neck sweater and a gloomy shade of blue, she's played brilliantly by The Office's Phyllis Smith. Her endearing ability to always blame herself makes her the source of a lot of Inside Out's laughs.

After all, it wouldn't be a Pixar film without a little sadness, and those searching for the tearjerker moments were certainly not disappointed. They have made a dazzling return to form – a fabulous, colourful and seriously charming piece of work that will put a smile on the saddest of faces.



**Inside Out had its world premiere at the 68th Festival de Cannes on May 18th. It has its UK release on the 24th July.**