

MIKE LEIGH



IN FOCUS

Week Ten

Welcome to *Mike Leigh In Focus*

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And now the end is near, as they say.

Welcome to the final week of *Mike Leigh in Focus*.

I have to say, it's been a genuine pleasure spending the last ten weeks with this group – and I've relished both the chance to share my own love of Mike Leigh's work *and* hear about yours. I've relished the discussions, and I'll miss our Wednesday evenings together.

I hope you'll consider coming back in October for a similar voyage through the work of Paul Thomas Anderson. A very different filmmaker but with an equally strong authorial voice.

But before that, we've two more films to look at. 2018's epic (for Mike Leigh, certainly) *Peterloo* and, bringing us all the way up-to-date, last year's *Hard Truths*.

Peterloo is a particularly interesting film in that the reviews perhaps had more in common with those of latter-day Ken Loach films – particularly the suggestion that the righteous anger of the filmmaker might – in some instances – overtaken the actual storytelling.

Obviously, other opinions are available (mine, for instance, favours the film) and I shall be curious to see where you all fall with *Peterloo*.

Hard Truths is our most recent visit to Leigh-land and a reunion with Marianne Jean-Baptiste of *Secrets & Lies*, in a film that was, in many corners, as acclaimed as their first collaboration but perhaps not as well *liked*.

Which is a fascinating distinction.

So, much to talk about before we wrap.

FILMS – WEEK TEN

Peterloo (2018)

Hard Truths (2024)

SUGGESTED READING

Mike Leigh on Mike Leigh

Amy Raphael and Mike Leigh

Mike Leigh: Interviews

Howie Movshovitz