

On Joanna Hogg
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Joanna Hogg is a British film director and screenwriter, and from the three films I've seen of hers—she's made a total of four—she is truly brilliant. I saw the three on the Criterion Channel and Amazon Prime, but they are also available for streaming on Google Play.

I started with Ms. Hogg's first one, released in 2007, "Unrelated," and was knocked out by it. She was 47 at the time, a late age for a first film and I wondered, why did it take this superb talent so long to make a film?

I then went to her last one, 2019, "The Souvenir," and then to 2014's "Exhibition." This viewing sequence was happenstance, and I'm not necessarily recommending you see them in this order, but this order did work for me. I haven't yet seen her second film, "Archipelago," 2011, but I plan on watching it later today.

The three I streamed were intimate, personal stories and focused on relationships, and I found them complex and nuanced and incredibly artful. I felt I was in the company of an absolutely top-of-the-line filmmaker. It seems that Ms. Hogg has been influenced by the great directors Eric Rohmer (1920-2010), French, and Yasujiro Ozu (1903-1963), Japanese, and I believe, absolutely, she belongs in their esteemed company.

Besides the privilege of taking in distinguished drama—this could be Ibsen or someone—I came away with a greater understanding of women--what they are like and what they need and deserve from men. A woman I'm close to but don't live with day-to-day was with me these past few weeks, and Hogg's superior insight and artistry helped me see things from her side and be better for her.

I highly recommend you check out Joanna Hogg. I understand she is preparing a sequel to "The Souvenir." Art is a matter of taste and where the consumer of it is at a point in his or her life, so no

guarantees that you take to Joanna Hogg's films as much as I did.
All I can say for sure is I think she is really special.