

**THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY 2018 124 minutes**

Directed by **Mike Newell**

Starring: Lily James, Michiel, Huisman

In 1941, on the island of Guernsey, four friends are stopped by soldiers for breaching curfew during the German occupation. When asked for their reason, they say they were returning from their book club, hastily named "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society", to avoid arrest.

Five years later, in January 1946, author Juliet Ashton is promoting her latest book, written under her pen name Izzy Bickerstaff. She has just been contracted, through her publisher, Sidney Stark, to write stories for *The Times Literary Supplement* about the benefits of literature. Juliet receives a letter from Dawsey Adams, a man from Guernsey who has come into possession of her copy of *Essays of Elia* and who wants to know about where to find a bookshop in England to buy another book by the same author, Charles Lamb. He tells her that he is part of "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society", which meets each Friday night. Juliet sends another book by Lamb and his sister, *Tales from Shakespeare*, in exchange for more information about the society and how it came into being. Juliet decides that she would like to write about the society and arranges to travel to the island, despite Sidney's reservations. Her American boyfriend Mark proposes before Juliet embarks on the ferry and she accepts. Upon arrival at Guernsey, Juliet attends the meeting of the Society where she is treated as a great celebrity by the members: Dawsey Adams, Amelia Maugery, Isola Pribbey, Eben Ramsey and Eben's young grandson, Eli. Juliet is told that Elizabeth, the founding member, is overseas. Juliet asks permission to write an article about the Society, but Amelia reacts negatively to the idea. Juliet learns that Dawsey is the guardian of Elizabeth's daughter, Kit. Instead of returning home at the end of the weekend, Juliet remains in Guernsey to conduct research, telling the group that she is writing about the German occupation. Over the following days, various members start to open up to Juliet, and Juliet discovers that Elizabeth was arrested and sent to Germany, but they are still hoping that she will return home. Juliet asks Mark, who is in the armed forces, to try to locate Elizabeth. After reading some of the work that Juliet wrote about the Society, a resident of Guernsey tells her that Elizabeth was no saint, hinting that Elizabeth was having sex with the Germans occupying the island to get luxuries. Juliet asks Dawsey about the story, and he confirms that he is not actually Kit's father, but the father was a German doctor, Christian Hellman. He worked with Elizabeth at the local hospital and had been sent back home. His ship was sunk in transit and he was killed.

Mark arrives in Guernsey with information about Elizabeth ...

Critics' comments:

That title is quite the mouthful, but don't worry, the film itself is quite aware of that. As it turns out it's a perfect sign on a door that opens up into a charming, quaintly picturesque period post-WWII drama that, in the nicest possible way, is the cinematic equivalent of a comforting serving of tea and biscuits on a rainy Sunday afternoon. (*David Edwards - The Blurb*)

- An old-school, old-fashioned entertainment, a romantic drama bursting with scenic vistas and earnest charm that contains just enough mystery to keep us involved. (*Kenneth Turan - Los Angeles Time*)

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