

**FINDING YOUR FEET** **2017**

111 minutes

Directed by **Richard Loncraine**

Starring: Imelda Staunton, Celia Imrie, Timothy Spall

Snobby, Lady Sandra (Academy Award nominee Imelda Staunton) is overseeing preparations for a retirement party for her husband of 35 years at their rambling estate house. Between toasts for the man of the hour, Sandra stumbles upon her husband and her best friend kissing in the garage and discovers that this has been going on for over five years. Desperate, she storms into the life of her hippie older sister Bif (Celia Imrie) seeking refuge in her cluttered flat on a London council estate and proceeds to fall apart. Sandra is a fish out of water next to her outspoken, serial dating, never-married free-spirited sibling. Bif uses a bike for transport, is sexually active and wears flowing bohemian style clothes. In true British style, Sandra dearly clings to her title until she realises the locals don't give a toss about uppity types. Different, is what Sandra needs at the moment, and she reluctantly lets Bif drag her along to a community dance class, where gradually she starts finding her feet and romance as she meets her sister's friends, Charlie, Jackie and Ted. Sandra is forced to pair off with the scruffy romantic Charlie (Timothy Spall). Just when she despairs about her future, she revives a passion for dancing and glimmers of romance appear in the most unlikely places. 'Lady' Sandra reverts to ordinary Sandra as she discovers that life can begin again at any age. The two polar-opposite sisters, manage to rekindle their relationship and recall happy memories from the past.

Critics' comments:

...Films like this give divorce an attractive name. Depending on how existential you want to be, the story can be about the innate power to find yourself in the most adverse circumstances or, on the other hand, a barrel of smirks about the idiosyncrasies of the British class system, the joys of getting older and wiser, and the role of fun in living well. The casting is impeccable and their performances are A-class as you would expect in a quality British production. Although the ensemble are uniformly excellent, Imelda Staunton and Timothy Spall are the standout duo as they depict polar opposite social types who find themselves in each other. (*CineMuseFilms*)

The same plot with a younger cast might struggle, but somehow watching older people dismantle and rebuild their joy of life under the wet blanket of British social conventions is always amusing. There are no outrageous laughs nor are people or situations held to ridicule. The film's pleasure comes entirely from an intelligent script that makes wry observations of life's ironies and people's peculiarities. It's not all funny, but the tears and sad moments are brief. The delightfully corny ending ensures you leave this warm-hearted film feeling good. (*CineMuseFilms*)