

“Are You There God? It’s Me Margaret”

Run do not walk to see “Are You There God? It’s Me Margaret”. Based on Judy Blume’s classic coming of age novel, it tracks the lives of four 12 year old girls growing up in suburban New Jersey in the 70’s. All the hopes and fears of young girls are on full display. When will they reach that heavenly day when they need a bra and who will be the first to reach the entry to womanhood – a period?

Anchoring the film is Abby Ryder Korston as Margaret. She gives an indelible performance in a film that is by turns exceptionally funny as well as being a profound and insightful view of that part of life most of us would like to forget.

Among but a few of the highlights of film (which I expect will be up for a number of awards this year) are:

- The girls' daily calisthenics routine which they dearly hope will lead to a time when they are no longer flat chested.
- Margaret and her friend Nancy’s trip to the drug store to buy sanitary napkins and their dismay when they find out that the older woman at the checkout counter has been replaced by a “boy”.
- The girls’ jealousy of fellow student Laura whose womanly body has the rapt attention of all the boys in class. But one day, while she is apologizing to Laura for a callous remark she made to her, Abby learns that Laura’s life is not all that it seems.
- The impeccable casting including Abby’s mother Barbara (Rachel McAdams) who struggles with problems of having given up her career as an art teacher to be a suburban mom; Margaret’s lovable but over the top grandmother (Kathy Bates); her insightful teacher Mr. Benedict (Echo Kellum) and the list goes on and on.
- The trip down nostalgia row with 70’s music; recalling the simple pleasure of running through the sprinklers on the front lawn and playing the spin the bottle.

A closing note. Many women I know are members of books clubs. “Are You There God? It’s Me Margaret”. is the perfect film to see with your book club or other group of girlfriends. You might plan on meeting for wine and dinner after the show for a post-film discussion.