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Happy-Go-Lucky

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Maladjusted driving instructor Scott is played brilliantly by Eddie Marsan, providing the darkest moments of the film and the most poignant. Alongside Poppy he's the only properly fleshed out character and their tense, frustrating weekly interchanges are compelling viewing. Elsewhere special mention should be given to Karina Fernandez, who gives a wonderfully evocative performance as the Flamenco teacher with personal issues.

'Happy-Go-Lucky' is thought provoking, enjoyable and beautifully shot. Focusing in on relationships and personalities, the struggle of daily existence in the modern world and the importance of cultivating friendships and building inner happiness, if it gets its viewers feeling even a little more compassionate than when they went in to the cinema great things could happen.

Facts about *Happy-Go-Lucky*

- This is Sally Hawkins' third Mike Leigh film - she played Samantha in *All Or Nothing* (2002) and Susan in *Vera Drake* (2004). She's also played many roles in TV and theatre, including the character of Cathy in *Little Britain*.
- You might recognise Eddie Marsan from mid-nineties TV comedy 'Game On', which starred Eastenders' Samantha Janus as Mandy. He played her ex-boyfriend Stoot in one episode and has gone on to big things since, most recently appearing in *Miami Vice*, *V For Vendetta* and *Mission Impossible III*.

Review by *Laura Kidd*

Laura saw this film courtesy of The Ritzy, Brixton

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