



## *Ghostlight*

115 min

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One of the joys for any film fan is to go into a film with as little knowledge as possible of what's ahead of you, and to discover a gem, to be surprised, delighted and moved. *Ghostlight* does all of that, and the best plan of action is definitely to go in with as minimal preconceptions as possible because you can't describe the plot or summarise it and do it justice. That's because ultimately, *Ghostlight* is not about what physically happens, it's about the emotions, growth and compassion along the way. Kelly O'Sullivan and Alex Thompson kick things off by setting the entire atmosphere on edge, it's filled with a bubbling tension that's ready to explode at any minute. Starting off with that combusive air is fascinating because *Ghostlight* slowly transitions into such a gentle, loving and empathetic film. It is genuinely touching, the way that it moves so perfectly allows it to burrow its way under your skin, to almost fall in love with this family. Not to mention that it's such an unconventional but hugely thoughtful way to explore grief. *Ghostlight* is anchored by three of the best performances you'll see this year from Keith Kupferer, Katherine Mallen Kupferer and Tara Mallen. It's the type of film that can both utterly break your heart but also make it full again, it's filled with grief and tension that evolves into warmth and compassion. Kelly O'Sullivan and Alex Thompson's debut feature *Saint Frances* showed how much potential these filmmakers had and *Ghostlight* embodies all of it. The concept sounds so strange and yet tying in Romeo and Juliet worked ridiculously well, it's impressive, truly moving and perfectly original.

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