# Mark Jenkin’s 'Rose of Nevada' explores time, myth, and haunting Cornwall mysteries at BFI London Film Festival



Mark Jenkin’s third feature, *Rose of Nevada*, is a haunting and mesmerising meditation on grief, resilience, and the collision of past and present, wrapped in the eerie mystique of time travel. Returning to the BFI London Film Festival with this film, Jenkin continues exploring themes reminiscent of his previous works *Bait* and *Enys Men*, but with a fresh narrative twist centred on the reappearance of a lost fishing boat off the Cornish coast.

After being missing for 30 years, the titular fishing vessel, *Rose of Nevada*, resurfaces in the harbour of a dilapidated Cornish fishing village. The boat soon sets sail again, now with two new crew members—Nick, a family man struggling to get by, and Liam, a mysterious figure who initially uses a false name. However, when they return to port, the village greets them as the crew that vanished three decades earlier, thrusting them into a temporal loop where present and past blur unsettlingly. This haunting premise is not just a supernatural mystery but also an exploration of the myths and superstitions that pervade seafaring communities, extended here into a foreboding conspiracy involving the boat itself. Some locals understand the boat’s powers, requiring crew members to be "sacrificed" to keep the cycle alive, yet the film refrains from explicating their true motives, leaving its viewers in a state of uneasy speculation.

The character dynamics underscore this mystery, with Nick and Liam embodying contrasting responses to their predicament. Nick, portrayed by George MacKay, embodies the emotional core—his desperation and quiet suffering anchoring the story’s gravitas, while Callum Turner’s Liam is reckless and elusive, abandoning caution where Nick urges restraint. Their differing attitudes intensify the film’s tension, with viewers naturally rooting for Nick’s hope that the curse binding them might be broken.

Jenkin’s cinematic style enriches the film’s atmosphere profoundly. Shot on 16mm film with occasional overexposure and visible sprocket holes, *Rose of Nevada* achieves a raw, textured aesthetic that doubles as a visual metaphor for the fraying boundaries between time periods. Close-ups of characters, particularly Nick, intercut with evocative shots of inanimate objects aboard the boat, combined with a haunting sound design crafted by Jenkin himself, reinforce the film's emotional intensity and sense of foreboding. This score blends wistful twangs, ominous rumbles, and eerie drones that convey the film’s melancholia and suspense.

Since its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival, *Rose of Nevada* has drawn critical acclaim and captivated international audiences, affirming Jenkin’s growing reputation on the festival circuit. It holds a perfect 100% rating on Rotten Tomatoes based on 20 reviews, signalling broad admiration for its artistry, though some critics note it may not be Jenkin’s most original or potent work. Despite this, the film remains a compelling, enigmatic journey through themes of community, memory, and the spectral burdens of history.

Ultimately, *Rose of Nevada* is a richly textured film that melds folklore, psychological drama, and a subtle supernatural mystery within the stark beauty of Cornwall’s rugged coast. It offers a deeply affecting meditation on loss and the inescapable grip of the past, leaving viewers with an ambiguous, lingering sense of both hope and despair.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://filmhounds.co.uk/2025/10/haunting-and-mesmerising-rose-of-nevada-london-film-festival-review/), [[4]](https://www.bfi.org.uk/sight-and-sound/reviews/rose-nevada-remarkably-beautiful-cornish-time-loop-drama), [[7]](https://www.viennale.at/en/film/rose-nevada)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://filmhounds.co.uk/2025/10/haunting-and-mesmerising-rose-of-nevada-london-film-festival-review/), [[2]](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/rose_of_nevada), [[3]](https://www.digitalspy.com/movies/a65982582/rose-of-nevada-rotten-tomatoes/), [[7]](https://www.viennale.at/en/film/rose-nevada)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://filmhounds.co.uk/2025/10/haunting-and-mesmerising-rose-of-nevada-london-film-festival-review/), [[6]](https://thefilmverdict.com/rose-of-nevada/), [[7]](https://www.viennale.at/en/film/rose-nevada)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://filmhounds.co.uk/2025/10/haunting-and-mesmerising-rose-of-nevada-london-film-festival-review/), [[4]](https://www.bfi.org.uk/sight-and-sound/reviews/rose-nevada-remarkably-beautiful-cornish-time-loop-drama), [[6]](https://thefilmverdict.com/rose-of-nevada/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/news/world-premiere-success-falmouths-mark-jenkin-venice), [[2]](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/rose_of_nevada), [[3]](https://www.digitalspy.com/movies/a65982582/rose-of-nevada-rotten-tomatoes/), [[6]](https://thefilmverdict.com/rose-of-nevada/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://filmhounds.co.uk/2025/10/haunting-and-mesmerising-rose-of-nevada-london-film-festival-review/), [[6]](https://thefilmverdict.com/rose-of-nevada/), [[7]](https://www.viennale.at/en/film/rose-nevada)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://filmhounds.co.uk/2025/10/haunting-and-mesmerising-rose-of-nevada-london-film-festival-review/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/rose_of_nevada> - 'Rose of Nevada' is a 2025 British drama directed by Mark Jenkin, featuring George MacKay and Callum Turner. The film follows the mysterious reappearance of the fishing vessel 'Rose of Nevada' in a Cornish village after 30 years. Nick (MacKay) and Liam (Turner) join the crew, only to find themselves transported back in time, greeted as the original crew members. The film has received critical acclaim, holding a 100% rating on Rotten Tomatoes based on 20 reviews. ([rottentomatoes.com](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/rose_of_nevada?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.digitalspy.com/movies/a65982582/rose-of-nevada-rotten-tomatoes/> - 'Rose of Nevada' has debuted with a perfect Rotten Tomatoes rating. The film stars George MacKay and Callum Turner as two men who take a job aboard a boat, but it's not any old boat. 30 years ago, the vessel Rose of Nevada went missing, with the local fishing village falling into destitution ever since. But one day it returns, and the villagers insist that it must go out to sea again to turn things around. ([digitalspy.com](https://www.digitalspy.com/movies/a65982582/rose-of-nevada-rotten-tomatoes/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.bfi.org.uk/sight-and-sound/reviews/rose-nevada-remarkably-beautiful-cornish-time-loop-drama> - 'Rose of Nevada' is a remarkably beautiful Cornish time-loop drama. Directed by Mark Jenkin, the film is shot on 16mm, with occasional visible sprocket holes and searing blasts of overexposure. The film is richly cast, with MacKay’s taut facial geometry marking the anxiety and the terrible shifts of realisation that Nick experiences. ([bfi.org.uk](https://www.bfi.org.uk/sight-and-sound/reviews/rose-nevada-remarkably-beautiful-cornish-time-loop-drama?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/news/world-premiere-success-falmouths-mark-jenkin-venice> - Mark Jenkin's latest film, 'Rose of Nevada', premiered at the Venice Film Festival, where it immediately captured the attention of audiences and critics alike. The screening marked a significant moment in Jenkin’s career, placing him once again on the international stage following the success of his BAFTA-winning 'Bait' (2019) and critically acclaimed 'Enys Men' (2022). ([falmouth.ac.uk](https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/news/world-premiere-success-falmouths-mark-jenkin-venice?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://thefilmverdict.com/rose-of-nevada/> - 'Rose of Nevada' is a haunting meditation on grief and guilt, poor life choices and second chances, embattled community spirit and collective folk memory. This is not Jenkin’s most original or powerful work, but it is still a compellingly enigmatic, ambiguous voyage into uncharted waters. As ever, the director composed the score himself, reinforcing the uneasy mood with wistful twangs, ominous rumbles and eerie electronic drones. ([thefilmverdict.com](https://thefilmverdict.com/rose-of-nevada/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.viennale.at/en/film/rose-nevada> - In his follow-up to 'Enys Men' (2022), Mark Jenkin returns to the Cornish coast to probe the mysteries held by its rugged landscapes. When a strange boat—which gives the film its name—reappears after being lost at sea for three decades, Nick (George MacKay) enlists himself as a crew member on the fishing vessel to support his struggling family alongside another villager, Liam (Callum Turner). ([viennale.at](https://www.viennale.at/en/film/rose-nevada?utm_source=openai))