

The Ballad of Wallis Island

UK (2025) 1 hour 39 minutes

Genre: Comedy drama

Director: James Griffiths

Cast: Tom Basden, Tim Key, Carey Mulligan.

Screening 27th May 2026 at Swindon Arts Centre

Synopsis

The Ballad of Wallis Island follows Charles (Tim Key), an eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island and dreams of getting his favourite musicians, McGwyer Mortimer (Tom Basden & Carey Mulligan) back together. His fantasy turns into reality when the bandmates and former lovers accept his invitation to play a private show at his home on Wallis Island. But old tensions resurface as Charles tries desperately to salvage his dream gig.

Reviews



The director James Griffiths' *The Ballad of Wallis Island* is a sublime, adorable comedy whose roots can be traced to a short Griffith made eighteen years ago.

This elongated version, written by the film's stars: Basden and Key - never gives a hint of its modest origin. The film bewitches you with its seemingly spontaneous humour, a cadre of original soulful folk tunes, and its adoration of the breathtaking surroundings.

Robert Daniels, RogerEbert.com

The Ballad of Wallis Island doesn't shout its meaning from the rooftops. It barely even raises its voice. Instead, it trusts the audience to lean in close, to listen carefully to its quiet melody of loss, renewal, and grace. It's a lovely little film — not because it dazzles with spectacle or twists, but because it knows, in its heart, that sometimes the bravest thing you can do is start again.

Codie Allen, Geeks Vibe Nation

Film Facts

- The film was shot in Welsh locations including Marros Sands, near Pendine, and with beautiful Caldey Island providing some of the coastal views, lending the film a sense of place that feels specific and yet timeless.
- The film ended up being shot in Wales to allow Carey Mulligan's family to stay nearby and help with the mum-of-three's new baby during the 18 days of filming.