



The Invisibles: Imaginative Film Asks, Is It Better to Be Not Seen Than Hurt?

September · Invisible Man movies, Invisibility as metaphor, The
19, 2024 Invisibles, Director Andrew Currie, Tim Blake Nelson, Bruce
Greenwood, Gretchen Mol

By John Kirk

Rating: A

A movie with a surreal premise, that examines whether it's better to be not seen than hurt, *The Invisibles* is a tonic for the soul.

How does somebody go on from trauma?

That's a question for Charlie Fisher (Tim Blake Nelson). When we meet Charlie and his wife, Hanna (Gretchen Mol), there is some sort of strain on their marriage. He avoids therapy, wakes up late and doesn't seem to garner too much attention in his lower-tiered job.



Congratulations if you can see Tim Blake Nelson, because others can't.

We don't learn about the cause of this strain until later in the film. But initially, Charlie starts to simply ... fade. People pass him, can't hear him when he speaks, simply stop regarding his presence and eventually even start to walk through him. His wife doesn't even know he's there.

What carries him through is that he learns that there are other people in his situation. He first meets Nick (Nathan Alexis), a former baker of bannock (the best bannock in town). And he learns that he isn't dead – just ... not in the same perceptive wavelength of regular people. Nick notes that others experiencing the same thing all seem happy.



This idea is reinforced by Carl (Bruce Greenwood), the acclaimed leader of these Invisibles, who ostensibly knows everything. Not only does he tend bar for his friends in an abandoned bowling alley, but he also



Greenwood is a wonderful addition to this film in the role of the self-proclaimed otherworldly guide who all of the Invisibles look to for advice. Not only can Carl instantly identify their cocktail of choice, but he can also reassure them that the comfort, lack of pain and appreciation for the now they are currently experiencing is all they need to enjoy their continued existence.

That's a powerful allure and Carl's credentials as someone who loves to surf California every winter and tend bar for friends somehow strengthens Charlie's resolve to figure out what is really going on, and if he can he return to his previous life.

(On another note: watch for our forthcoming interview with Greenwood about his role as Carl.)

This film is a journey. Not just to discover what sort of extra-dimensional existence Charlie has found himself in, but also one of self-discovery. And the way that director/writer Andrew Currie (*Fido*, *Mile Zero*) lays it out for the viewer is provocative on various levels. Is this an actual side-dimension or is it a state of mind? Does it represent a place within the Afterlife or is this still a mortal existence?

Watching this film is not just about figuring what part of the hereafter Charlie is in. It asks if there is a way he can heal the damage in his regular life and get back to it?



to consider their own. Does a life of experience have greater value than a life of avoidance?

Therein lies the draw of this film. It asks the question: is it better to give up, give in to whatever comfort we

can find after a traumatic event? Of course, the answer is no. Life has a purpose, a vitality that we overlook in our quest for relief from pain.

I'm reminded of a *Star Trek* axiom in which Captain Kirk exclaimed that he needed his pain. We do, if not as a reminder of what we've learned, but as an acceptance that the joys of life come at a cost.

What a great film.

The Invisibles. Directed and co-written by Andrew Currie. Stars Tim Blake Nelson, Gretchen Mol and Bruce Greenwood. *The Invisibles* releases theatrically September 20.



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