



Blue Moon

100 min

March 16, 2026

Blue Moon is a thoughtful film that doesn't try to overwhelm you with spectacle. Richard Linklater takes viewers into the life of legendary lyricist Lorenz Hart on one particular night in 1943 New York. While the world celebrates his collaborator's success, Hart wanders through the city feeling lost, funny, and painfully human. The film isn't about big Broadway numbers or flashy sets; it's about a man wrestling with his own place in the world, and it immediately sets a reflective and intimate tone. It spotlights the day Richard Rodgers is celebrating his musical *Oklahoma!* Hart watches his old friend Richard Rodgers who has now partnered with Oscar Hammerstein celebrate the premiere of *Oklahoma!* and struggles with envy and regret. Along the way, he interacts with Elizabeth (Margaret Qualley), whose gentle presence softens some of his sharper edges, and other figures from his past. The plot is simple, almost slice-of-life, but it works because every encounter reveals something about Hart that relates to his insecurities and his longing for connection. The film moves slowly, but it has a rhythm that feels alive and real. You're drawn into Hart's thoughts, his humour, and his contradictions. The story shows how fleeting success can feel and how deeply people can be affected by their own insecurities. The pacing of the film allows you to notice the heartbreaking moments that make Hart so compelling. There's also a sense of nostalgia throughout, a bittersweet feeling of looking back at one's life and realizing how much has changed, or how little. The performances are the heart of the film. Ethan Hawke carries it effortlessly, making Hart feel alive in every scene. He plays Hart with a restless energy, full of humor and melancholy, and is a revelation. Margaret Qualley brings warmth and subtle emotion that balances Hart's restless energy. Andrew Scott's portrayal of Richard Rodgers is calm and thoughtful, providing the contrast Hart needs to show his vulnerabilities. The smaller roles, be it Eddie or Andy White, add texture, giving the impression that this world extends beyond Hart's immediate struggles. The film packs several moments that feel purposeful, adding depth without being heavy-handed. *Blue Moon* is a film that rewards patience. It captures the life of a brilliant, complicated man with honesty and heart. It's funny, sad, and occasionally uncomfortable, but always engaging. While it might not appeal to viewers seeking fast-paced drama, it succeeds in creating a memorable portrait of an artist at a crossroads and in the twilight of his career. The combination of insightful writing and strong performances makes it more than just a biopic. The film is more of a character study, a glimpse into the struggles of creative life, and a reminder that talent doesn't always come with peace of mind. It's a thoughtful, charming, and quietly moving film by Richard Linklater that stays with you and forces you to think about talent, friendship, and the price of brilliance.

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