



DOWN AND OUT IN THE LONESOME WEST

A solitary young man bonds with a horse in Andrew Haigh's heart-wrenching Lean On Pete

In a corner of Portland, lanky, coltish Charley (Charlie Plummer) gets up and goes for a run. On his way out, he picks up a loose piece of cardboard and puts it in the recycling bin.

No one's watching, the gesture is largely futile, and yet it captures so much about well-intentioned Charley, who came to life in Willy Vlautin's 2010 novel *Lean On Pete*. Vlautin's books chart the lives of the down-and-out, his plain language compassionate, his seedy neighborhoods fully realized, his characters' unspoken loneliness palpable.

Writer-director Andrew Haigh's *Lean On Pete* is a pitch-perfect adaptation, gorgeously made and difficult to watch.

Charley exists on the margins, not just of society but of his father's life as well. His mother split long ago, and a move from Spokane to Portland left Charley without a social network. So he runs — and one morning he runs until he finds a racetrack.

Before long, he earns himself a job working for Del (Steve Buscemi, perfectly irascible), a worn-out, small-time trainer whose half-dozen horses include one that Charley immediately loves, by the name of Lean On Pete.

"They're not pets," Del's jockey pal, Bonnie (Chloë Sevigny), tells Charley. But when you connect with an animal, it's not always by choice, and Charley needs to connect with *something*. He doesn't say much to people — he's skittish, earnest and quietly desperate not to be judged.

Pete doesn't judge. In the languid pacing of Haigh's film, Pete bit by bit becomes central in Charley's life, as what little else the boy has falls away. And when that connection is threatened, Charley does something a little desperate, a little stupid and entirely understandable.

Lean On Pete is a lot of things — a reminder of how easy it is for people to slip through the cracks of society; a critique of the world that allows this to happen so swiftly and mercilessly; a devastating portrait of loneliness. (It is *not* a fuzzy boy-and-his-horse movie, and it will crush you if you are expecting that.)

As Charley goes in search of a long-lost aunt, he is at times the only human in Eastern Oregon's scrubby, gorgeous landscape, and it feels like something beyond *alone*.

But under Charley's thin, vulnerable face is a stubbornness that Plummer uses sparingly and to great effect. The world isn't going to give Charley anything, so he braces himself and takes what he needs. Harshness isn't in his nature, and these actions take something out of him.

Plummer and Haigh are the perfect pair for Vlautin's story: Haigh's eye for detail, for telling, silent moments, conveys much about Charley's life — and Plummer is breathtakingly good as a young man trying to remain himself when the world keeps trying to beat him into something else.

What Haigh shows us of Charley's life is honest, as unsentimentally depicted as Vlautin's story was straightforwardly written — the dingy home; the worn-out racetracks and dusty fairs; the kindness and cruelty of strangers. Haigh understands the compassion of this story, and while the people in his film can be cruel to one another, the film is never cruel to them. It watches, and it understands, and it compels us to do the same. (*Opens Friday at Broadway Metro*)

BROADWAY

MAY 4-10

LEAN ON PETE
FRI-SUN 1:05 3:45 6:25 9:00
MON-THU 3:45 6:25 9:00

YOU WERE NEVER REALLY HERE
FRI 5:20 7:30 9:30
SAT-SUN 12:45 5:20 7:30 9:30
MON-THU 5:20 7:30 9:30

FOXTROT
DAILY 2:50

ISLE OF DOGS
FRI-SUN 12:25 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:00
MON-TUE 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:00
WED-THU 2:40 5:00 9:00

A QUIET PLACE
FRI 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:30
SAT 11:45 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:30
SUN 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:30
MON-TUE 4:20 6:40 9:30
WED 4:20 9:30
THU 4:20 6:40 9:30

METROARTS
PREMIUM EVENT ADMISSION
NATIONAL THEATRE: OBSESSION
SAT 11:00
THU 7:00

43 W. BROADWAY (541) 686-2458
REGULAR ADMISSION
\$9 ADULTS
\$8 STUDENTS
\$6 SENIORS
\$6 BEFORE 5 PM
OPEN EVERY DAY

BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT **BROADWAYMETRO.COM**

Cambium Harvest

NEW!
PREMIUM PLANTING AND POTTING SOILS

Indoor Grow
A lightweight blend with Peat Moss, Coir, Earthworm Castings, Mycorrhizal & More!

Outdoor Grow
A heavier blend of premium Compost, Dark Aged Fines with the added benefit of Forest Wood Bio Char & more!

Super Grow
A medium-weight blend designed specifically for indoor to outdoor growing; full of super ingredients!

Available exclusively at

LANE
FOREST PRODUCTS

The company to grow with
f y l laneforest.com

BIJOU ART CINEMAS

5/4 - 5/10
492 E. 13th Ave
541-357-0375

bijou-cinemas.com

Serving the Eugene Community for Over 35 Years!

1945 (NR)
In Hungarian & Russian with English Subtitles
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45

ITZHAK (NR)
Friday 1:30, 3:30
Saturday - Monday 1:30, 6:00
Tuesday 1:30, 3:30
Wednesday 1:30, 6:00
Thursday 1:30, 3:30

THE DEATH OF STALIN (R)
Friday 8:30 pm
Saturday - Monday 3:30, 8:00
Tuesday 8:30 pm
Wednesday 3:30, 8:00
Thursday 8:30 pm

UO School of Journalism presents Academy Award Winning Documentary
ICARUS (Free Screening!)
Tuesday 6:00 pm
Q&A with cinematographer and UO graduate Jake Swank after the film.

HEAL
Thursday 6:00 pm
Q&A with Dianne Porchia, Mind-Body Medicine & Spiritual Therapist, after the film.

TICKET PRICES: MATINEE before 5pm \$6
ADULT \$8 | STUDENT \$7 | SENIOR 62+ \$6 CHILD age 12 & under \$6

DAVID MINOR THEATRE

TIX \$7 \$5 SUNDAYS \$3 TUESDAYS
STUDENT & SENIOR DISCOUNT

762-1700 | 1180 E. 5TH AVE
DAVIDMINORTHEATRE.COM
ALL AGES

MAY 4TH - MAY 10TH

*SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MATINEE ONLY

PADDINGTON 2 2:45*
JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE 2:55*
PETER RABBIT 4:35
LOVE, SIMON 5:05

THE SHAPE OF WATER 6:20
GAME NIGHT 7:05
PLEASE STAND BY 8:30
ANNIHILATION 8:55

Sunrise Asian Food Market

Now Featuring Middle Eastern Food & Vegetarian Items
Including Vegetarian Seafood, Meat Substitutes & Snacks

Asian Groceries
Seaweed, rice, noodles, frozen products, deli, snacks, drinks, sauces, spices, produce, housewares, and more.
Sushi & Asian deli take-out

Woodfield Station SHOPPING CENTER
29TH AVENUE

WILLAMETTE STREET
OAK STREET

Sunrise

www.sunriseasianfood.com
M-Th 9am-7pm • F 9am-8pm • Sa 9am-7pm • Su 10am-6pm
70 W. 29th Ave. Eugene • 541-343-3295