

FILM REVIEW
LOVING

JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

OSCAR nominated Ruth Negga may not have very much dialogue in her role as Mildred, in *Loving* - which deals with a racially explosive topic - but her subtle body language, quiet dignity, deep inner strength and her ability to turn an emotion at the blink of an eye, makes for a truly powerful performance.

This story about an interracial couple whose marriage is prosecuted as illegal by the state of Virginia in the 1950s is an absorbing piece of cinema; two hours of intricately packaged drama from director Jeff Nichols, of *Mud* and *Midnight Special* fame.

This is a soft-spoken film; the characters facing undeniable injustice without having to rely on tears or raised voices to convey the drama.

Twenty-three year-old Southern 'white trash' construction worker Richard Loving (Joel Edgerton) is in love with Mildred (Ruth Negga), five years his junior, and the fact that he is white and she is black doesn't matter to either of them. He proposes to her by inviting her to land he has purchased in rural Virginia, where they both live with their respective families. Neither side is thrilled at this coming together, but they are country folk and it is not in their nature to butt into other people's business.

It's 1958, though, and state law doesn't allow mixed-race marriages. Richard and Mildred elope to Washington, D.C. to make things legal, and after they return to Virginia, they must keep their marriage quiet to avoid arrest.



Creative Impact Awards

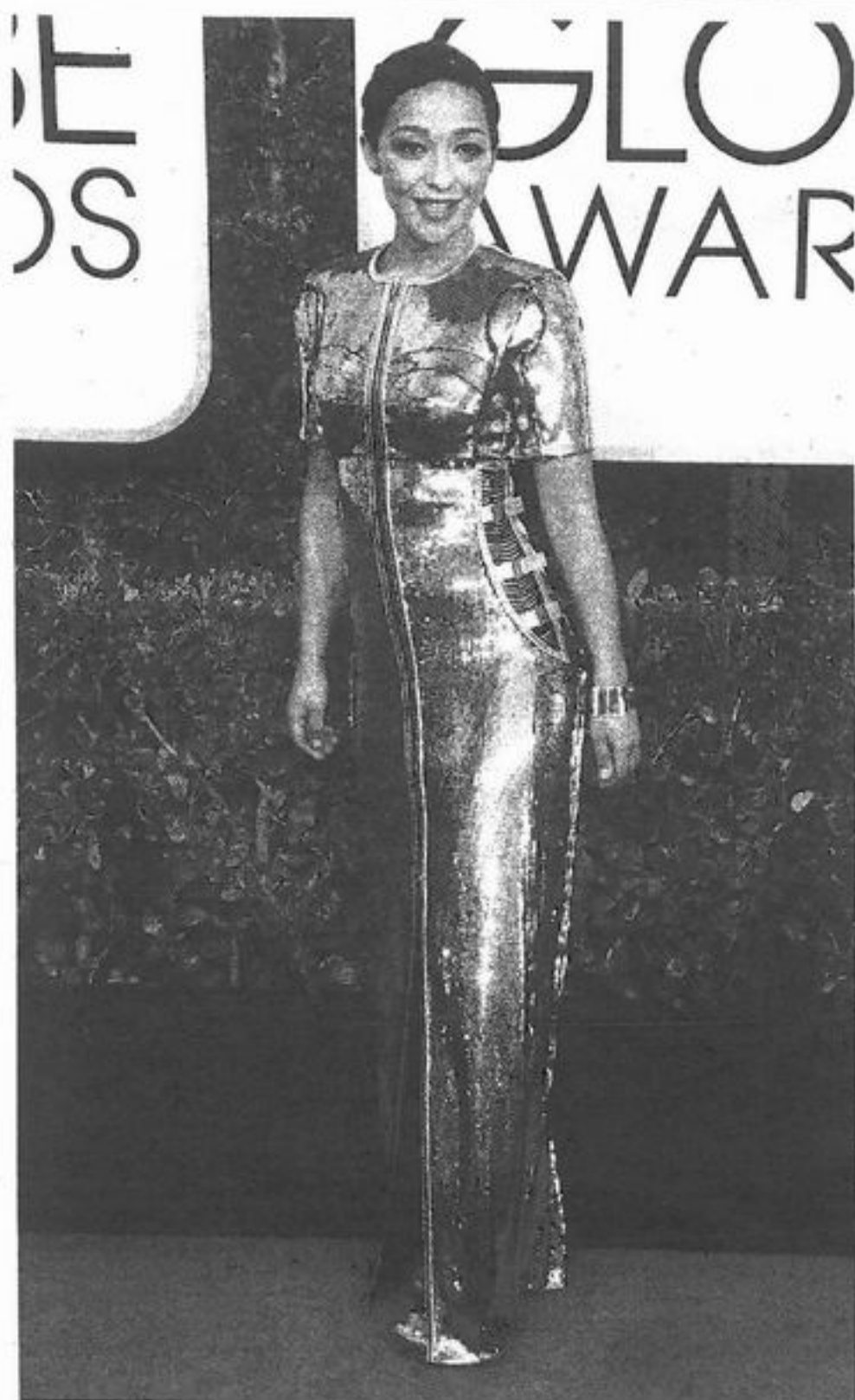
That lasts only until Mildred is several months into her first pregnancy. Trouble awaits when Sheriff Brooks (Marlon Brando), is tipped off and late one night, he and his men turn up, knock down the bedroom door and drag the couple to jail.

Richard hires a lawyer (Bill Cam) but has no choice but to accept the penalty: leave Virginia and don't come back with Mildred for 25 years, or face one year's prison time.

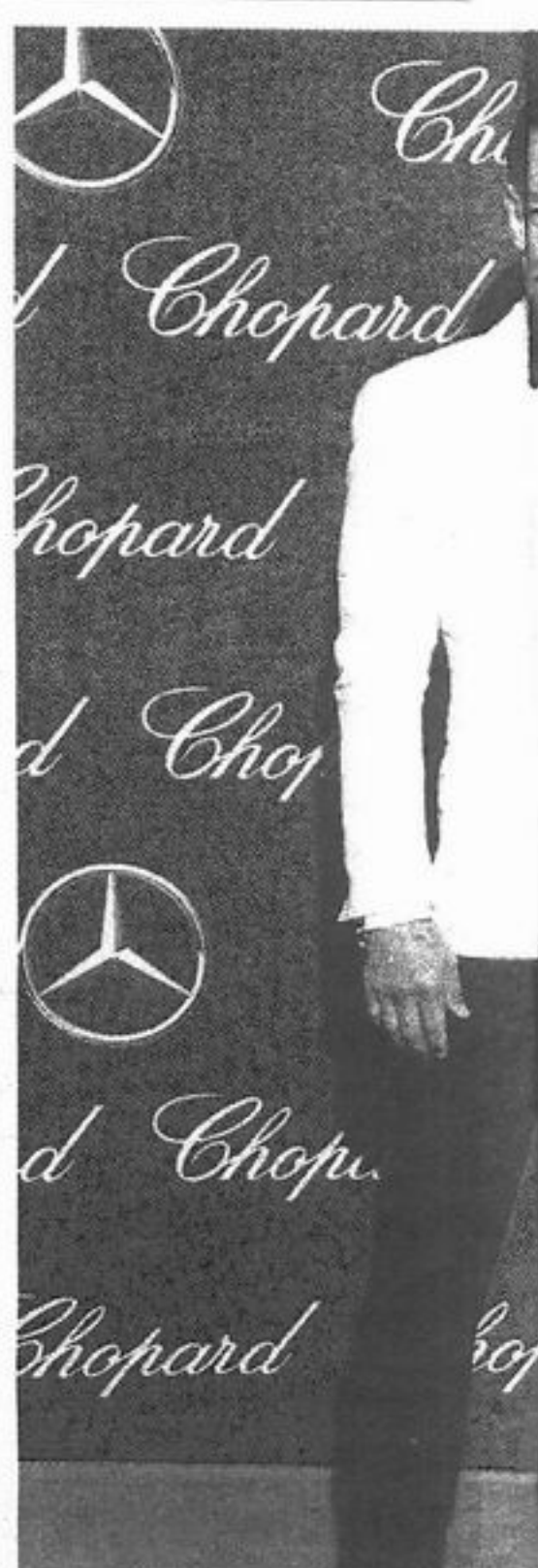
From there, *Loving* traces their marriage as it grows stronger over the years with the addition of three children, despite the couple having to relocate to Washington D.C.

Theirs is a resilient relationship; as Richard becomes ever more insular and Mildred's outgoing inclinations become ever more evident, it strengthens rather than weakens their marital bonds.

Eventually, the Lovings cross paths with a civil rights attorney and an opening to full legal recognition of their marriage is on the horizon.



At the Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills



Palm Springs International Film Festival with Mildred

Our Dooradoyle Dame

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SARAH O'DWYER

RUTH NEGGA'S television and movie career began back around 2004, when she starred in *Love is the Drug*, a drama series set in Drogheda, alongside her soon-to-be *Love/Hate* cast mate Ruth Bradley.

Following this, in 2005, she had a part in *Breakfast on Pluto*, which starred Irish actor Cillian Murphy. She had some recurring roles on TV series in the intermediate years, followed by a stint on the hit UK TV show *Misfits*. She played Nikki, a character who needed a heart and lung transplant.

Love/Hate was perhaps Negga's major breakthrough role. While, at first, only screened in Ireland, the RTE tv drama became one of the biggest hits in State broadcaster's history. Negga's character Rosie only graced our screens until the end of season two, but by then she had made quite the impact on, not just the viewers, but those in the industry.

Her most recent roles include Marvel's *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* where she played the



Ruth Negga IFTA 2012



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part of Raina from 2013 to 2015, and as Tulip O'Hare in *Preacher* where she stars alongside her boyfriend, and Hollywood heavyweight Dominic Cooper.

She also starred in the 2016 film *Warcraft: The Beginning*, an extension of the video game. Both shows, as well as the *Warcraft* movie, delve in the supernatural, however,

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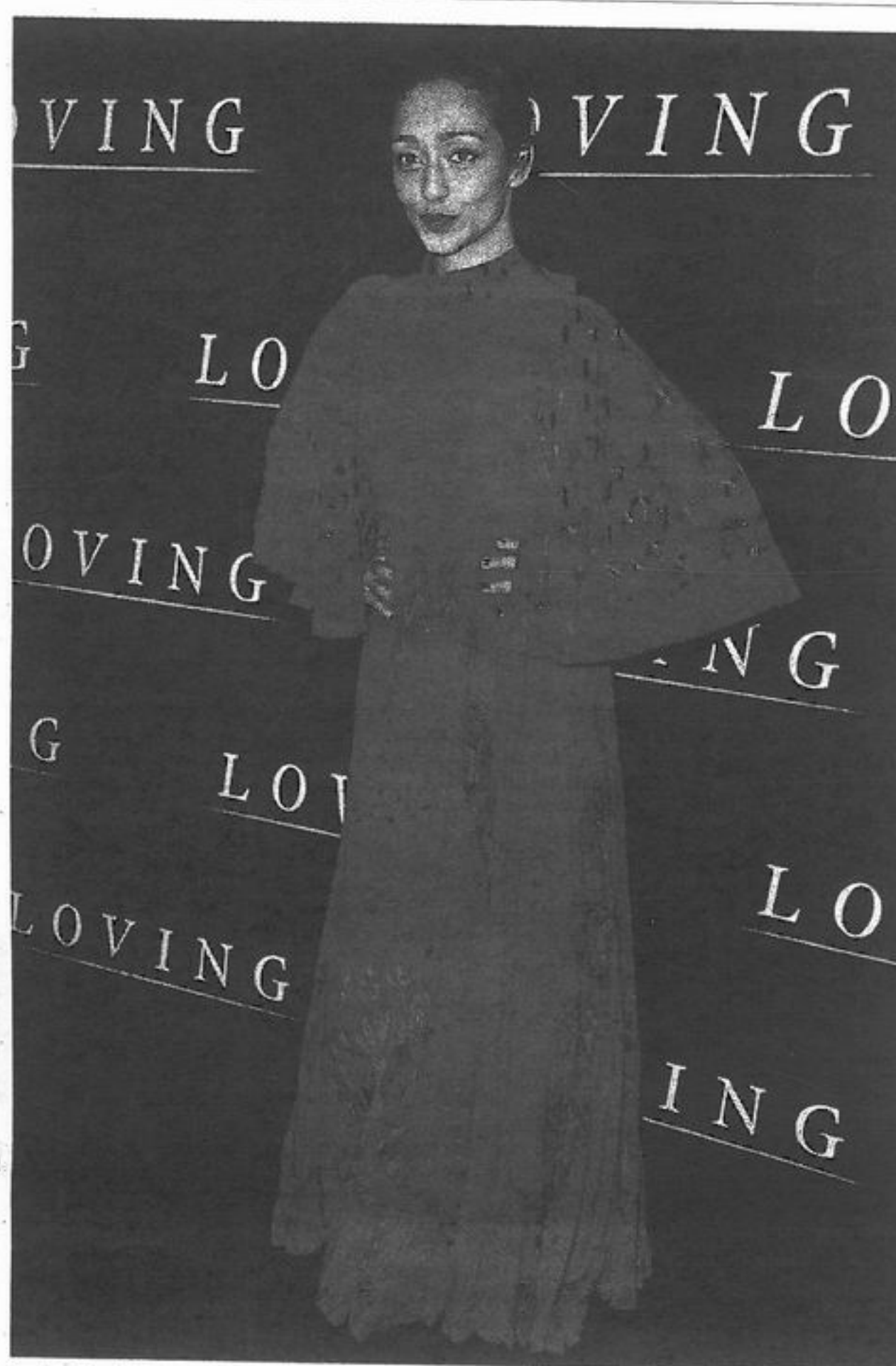
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Guns N Roses	Slane	27/05/17
Robbie Williams	Aviva Stadium	17/06/17
Justin Bieber	RDS	21/06/17
Phil Collins	Aviva Stadium	25/06/17
Cold Play	Croke Park	08/07/17
U2	Croke Park	22/07/17
Electric Picnic	Stradbally	1-3/09/17

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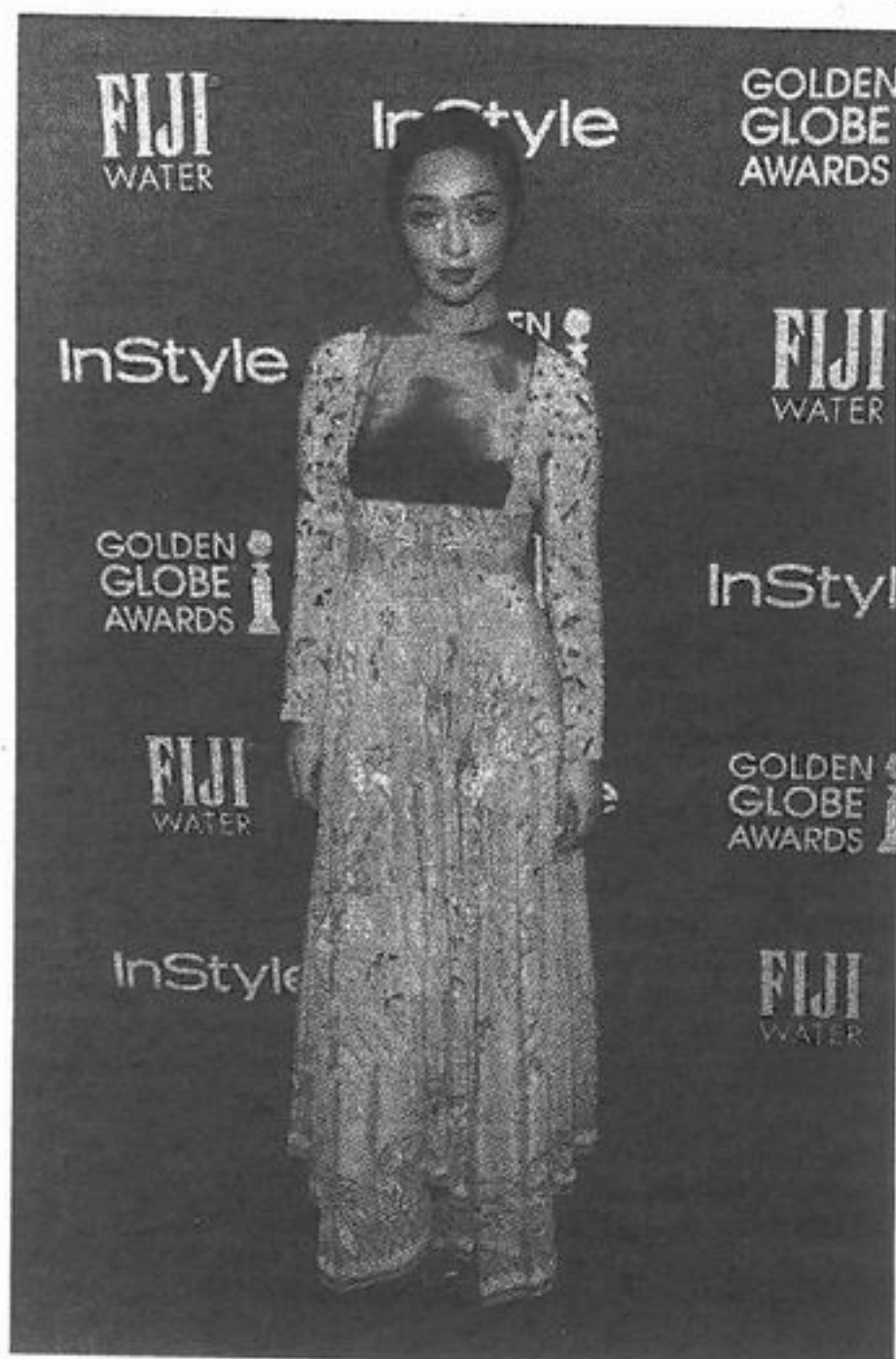
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Edgerton co-star Joel Edgerton



'Loving' Premiere in Paris



InStyle Golden Globes after party 2017

Ruth's first Oscar nod came from a visceral human story of racism and love in 1960s America.

Loving tells the story of a mixed-race couple Mildred, played by Negga, and her husband Richard, played by Joel Edgerton, and their fight to have mixed-race marriage legalised in Virginia, and across the United States.

Portraying a true story on screen is never easy, but judging by the numerous award nods she has received this season, the critics agree Negga has done a fantastic job. The most prestigious of these awards, of course, is the Oscar, for which she is nominated in the Best Female Actor category alongside Isabelle Huppert, Natalie Portman, Emma Stone, and Meryl Streep.

Having lost out on the Golden Globe to Emma Stone in early January, Negga comes in as a bit of an underdog ahead of the Oscars on February 26. However, to beat her in the style stakes will take something special. Her metallic gown at the Golden Globes dazzled viewers and critics alike.

The talk of Twitter that evening was Negga's eye-catching metallic zip-up gown by Louis Vuitton. Stylist to the stars Karla Welch was tasked in the months leading up to the ceremony with the job of finding a suitable eye-catching look for Negga. Welch must have done a good job, as Negga topped many of the Best Dressed lists all around the world.

Vogue magazine hailed their January edition cover star as a runaway success on the red carpet.

Her stylist spoke in detail about the custom gown: "It's a custom piece made in the very special atelier in Paris. Nicolas Ghesquiere [Vuitton's creative director] designed the dress for her. It's a combination of rose gold, yellow gold and silver paillettes - they were all sewn by hand and it took 120 hours to make," Ms Welch told the *Telegraph* newspaper.

Negga was accompanied to the ceremony by her cousin Dave Malone, from *Limerick*, who also attended the Cannes film festival with her last year.

Just about a week prior to this Negga won the Rising Star Award at the 2017 Palm Springs Film Festival, for this she wore a beautiful Valentino dress and shoes, a Lucifer for Gemfields ring and carried a Judith Lieber clutch.

Perhaps one of her most breathtaking and eye-catching looks was at the *Loving* Premiere in Paris in early December. Ruth was red-hot! Again choosing one of her favourite designers, Valentino, her stunning red dress featured intricate pleated sleeves that matched its sweeping skirt.

However this is not all new to Negga, who has been nominated for awards and attending ceremonies for years. Back in early 2012, for another true-to-life part such as her character in *Loving*, Negga won the Best Actress IFTA for her portrayal of Shirley Bassey in the feature length movie *Shirley*. While her style has progressed over the intervening years, the Ethiopian-born, Limerick-reared actress looks set for even greater things in the years to come.

LIFE IN
FILM

JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

THE engaging and entertaining *Gold*, based loosely on the Bre-X mining scandal, has Matthew McConaughey as Kenny Wells, a pot-bellied and dishevelled, drunken, down on his luck precious metals prospector with barely a cent to his name, still wheeling and dealing with hopes of hitting it big.

To the uninitiated, and those who have long forgotten the scandal, Bre-X Minerals once brought hope of a prosperous future to the Dayak people of Busang in Indonesia. But a decade after the junior Calgary exploration company imploded, the locals still searched for gold. They crushed rock with primitive machines, seeking any fragment of precious bullion that the jungle might give up.

The company started by his father and bequeathed to him is on its last legs, and the business minded Wells sees his last chance in believing the theory of a once great but now down-and-out geologist (Edgar Ramirez), who suspects there's a massive, untapped bonanza of gold in the depths of the Indonesian jungle.

Word of a discovery soon filters its way back to home-town Nevada, with a resultant huge rise in stock prices and interest from New York firms that want to partner in the extraction and movement of what might be the biggest gold strike in decades.

So confident is Wells that he even employed a group of salesmen wearing loose ties who hang around the bar all day, ready to make phone calls to easily hoodwinked investors.

Together and against all odds, they seem to hit gold, but after the pair have already made millions and staved off numerous setbacks - from aggressive buyout offers to bullying by the Indonesian military - things might not be as great as they projected.

THE eagerly awaited *Lego-Batman* movie is now on screens.

In the irreverent spirit of fun that made *The LEGO Movie* a worldwide phenomenon, the self-described leading man of that ensemble - *LEGO Batman* - stars in his own big-screen adventure. But there are big changes brewing in Gotham, and if Batman wants to save the city from *The Joker's* hostile takeover, he may have to drop the lone vigilante thing, try to work with others and maybe, just maybe, learn to lighten up.

DIRECTOR Ang Lee usually delivers on screen, but his deceptively titled *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, a rather a strange sort of film with a feeble anti-war storyline, falls short.

Billy Lynn (newcomer Joe Alwyn) is a soldier in Iraq who has gained fame because a news photographer captured a moment when he came to the aid of a fellow soldier. Lynn and his fellow Bravo Squad members are sent home for a two-week press tour, culminating in a presentation during halftime of a football game in Dallas on Thanksgiving Day.

Lynn is suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome, and so are most of his fellow soldiers. They are spooked by any sudden or loud sounds and react as they would on the battlefield. Lynn's sister, Kathryn (Kristen Stewart), keeps telling him that he should remain home, rather than returning to Iraq, and so he is wrestling with that as well on the final day of Bravo Unit's leave.

As one might expect when soldiers meet, there is plenty of sex-talk.