

Chicago (12)

Nine members enjoyed the slightly weird (in one member's opinion) Chicago on 13th December.

The musical follows the trials (literally) and tribulations of Roxie Hart (Zellweger) and Velma Kelly (Zeta-Jones), two murderers who find themselves in jail together awaiting trial in 1920s Chicago. Richard Gere plays their (somewhat slimy) lawyer (who has never lost a case), and Queen Latifah plays Matron "Mama" Norton, who looks after the ladies on Murderers Row in the women's prison.

The musical numbers were expertly staged and moved the story along nicely. Rather surprisingly, the three main leads all performed their own material and were really quite good. The budget of \$45m is all visible on the screen and the film deservedly won six Oscars, including Best Picture, at the 2003 ceremony. It also grossed more than \$300m globally at the box office and was the directorial debut for Rob Marshall, who also choreographed the film.

Interestingly, the film is based on a 1926 play which was written about real-life Jazz-era murderers Beulah Annan (Roxie Hart) and Belva Gaertner (Velma Kelly), about whom more detail is available via Wikipedia.