

SYNOPSIS

The multi-award winning *Moonlight* follows the life of a young black man – Chiron - in three chapters. Bullied throughout his youth and emotionally neglected by his mother, Chiron finds love and support from a local drug dealer (Mahershala Ali) and his wife (Janelle Monáe), as he navigates the difficulties of growing up. Based on the unpublished play by Tarell Alvin McCraney *In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue*, *Moonlight* is a stunning portrait of black American masculinity that challenges stereotypes to explore identity, sexuality and intimacy in the shaping of a life.

**WHAT THE CRITICS SAY**

'Rejoining cinematographer James Laxton, Jenkins paints the screen not in the gritty, neorealist hues expected of such streetwise stories, but with the rich textures and saturated colours of a waking dream. This environment may be harsh but there is exquisite beauty here, in the sunburst days and neon-tinged nights of Miami. Shooting in digital anamorphic, Laxton's widescreen frame is expansively intimate, whether circling Juan on the streets, prowling a bully in the schoolyard or watching a quiet conversation from the back seat of a car. In one sublimely memorable moment, Laxton's lens captures Little with his hand hanging out of the window of Juan's ride, fingers strumming the breeze that blows from the ocean to the streets.'

The Guardian

*'If the Best Actor Oscar could be shared, then Alex Hibbert, Ashton Sanders and Trevante Rhodes would be a shoo-in for their equally fearless, utterly absorbing three-in-one portrayal of Chiron (based in part on Jenkins himself, and in part on Tarell Alvin McCraney, whose play *In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue* is the inspiration for Jenkins' script). Hibbert is huge-eyed and heart-rending as the withdrawn, diminutive child left to fend for himself during his mother's long absences. Sanders exudes explosive awkwardness as the gangly, bullied teen standing at a crossroads where he will be empowered either by love or rage. And Rhodes undercuts smooth charm with a sense of jagged disquiet as the buff, 26-year-old "trapper" with gold dentures who returns to that crossroads a decade later. It's rare to see three different actors depict a single life so convincingly, and Jenkins wisely gives each roughly equal screen time so the heavy load of Chiron is evenly spread.'*

Empire