

Wuthering Heights

Elizabeth Anderson
Page Editor

Emily Brontë's classic Gothic horror novel, *Wuthering Heights*, was released in the year 1847. It has been a staple in classic English literature, being taught in classes all around the world, growing a large and enthusiastic audience. The story is being brought to the big screen by the famous filmmaker Emerald Fennell (director of *Saltburn* 2023). It's scheduled to release on February 13, 2026, right before Valentine's Day. Fennell's version aims to be bigger and more erotic than past adaptations, emphasizing the raw, almost animalistic emotions in Brontë's book rather than a conventional period romance.

The film's cast combines famous stars with rising new ones. Margot Robbie stars as Catherine Earnshaw, our female protagonist, alongside Heathcliff, Catherine's obsessive love interest, who is being played by Jacob Elordi. Other supporting actors are Hong Chau as Nelly

Dean, Shazad Latif as Edgar Linton, and Alison Oliver as Isabella Linton. Along with casting, the director has described her adaptation not just as a classic Gothic story but as an emotional and almost primal tale, aiming to capture the novel's obsession and psychological depth rather than just its historical detail.

The film's stylistic choices, from music to visuals, make it a bold and modern take. The official trailer features a remix of Charli XCX's music, and later, the artist revealed that she is making the soundtrack for the movie.

Early promotional images and press tour appearances, particularly Robbie's fashion statements, reinforce the film's stylistic intentions. Robbie has leaned into a sensual, almost fashion-forward portrayal that juxtaposes Victorian influences with a modern cinematic feel. Beneficially, much of the production was shot in Yorkshire, where the origi-

nal story is set, making the moors and landscape almost a character in itself. Fennell reportedly took an immersive, sensory approach, aiming for the audience to feel the stormy emotional weather of the world rather than simply viewing it.

Even before it hits theaters, the film has sparked discussion and controversy among fans and critics. Some readers of the original novel have criticized aspects of the casting, mainly Elordi's portrayal of Heathcliff, because Brontë's Heathcliff is heavily implied to be of ambiguous, possibly non-white heritage, being described as a "dark-skinned gypsy."

Similarly, casting Robbie, who is significantly older than the teenage Catherine of the book, has also drawn some comand

mentary. A test screening revealed explicit scenes and a provocative tone, creating debate about how faithful the adaptation really is.

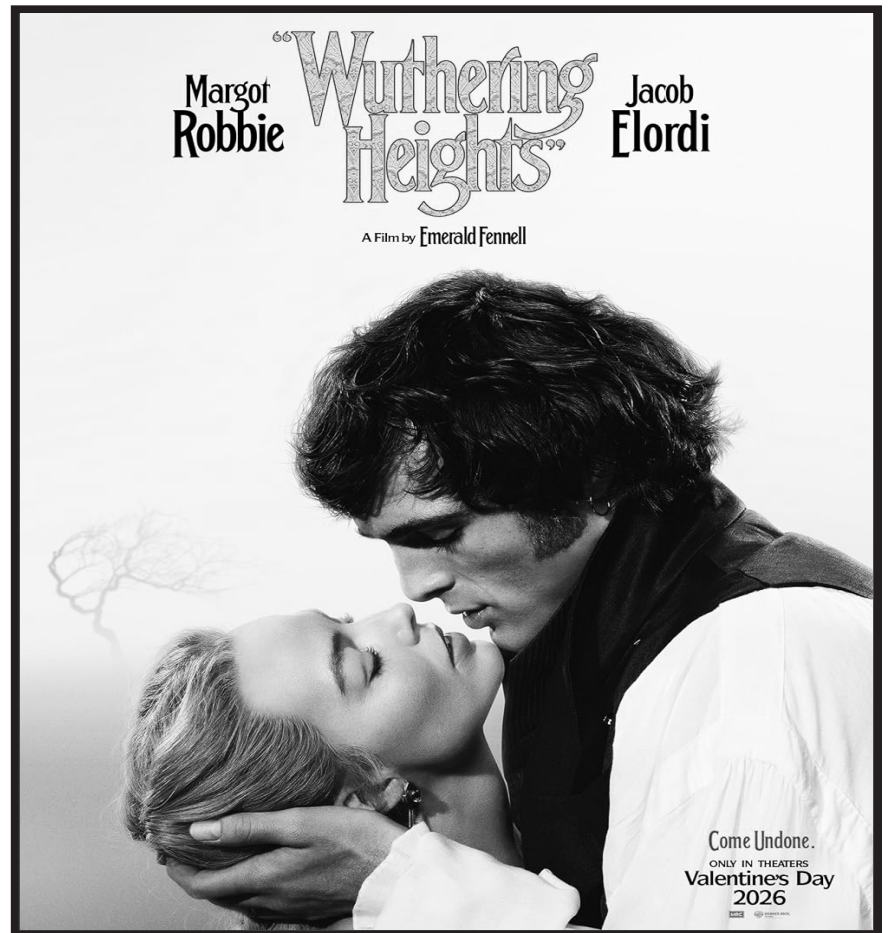
Some early reviewers argue that the film's sexual emphasis may overshadow deeper subject matter like class conflict and mental illnesses in the novel. Fennell and the cast have addressed the matter by encouraging audiences to watch the film with an open mind, emphasizing that the movie is only "inspired" by the book.

Wuthering Heights stays so relevant because it explores the intensity of human passions and emotions, themes that continue to resonate deeply with readers across generations.

This new adaptation seeks to amplify the emotional core for Gen Z and contemporary viewers, employing bold visuals, provocative storytelling, and molding elements between the 19th century direction, and release date to capture romantic and dramatic attention, "*Wuthering Heights*" is shaping up to be one of the most talked-up literary adaptations of 2026.

Whether it satisfies previous fans or targets a new generation, its release promises fresh conversation about this classic story.

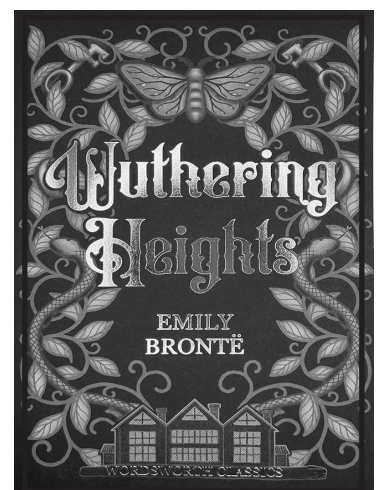
"Wuthering Heights has the viewer feel every heartbeat, every heartbreak, and provides a beautiful rendition of a classic love story"



A CLASSIC RETURNS: *Wuthering Heights* resurfaces in a nostalgic wave. Image via IMDB



HEATHCLIFF AND CATHERINE stare at each other as their love and tension grows. Image via Seattle Refined



WUTHERING HEIGHTS: Book cover adaptation. Image via Amazon