WARM BODIES:

Verdict: Thumbs up! By Paul Copper

It’s a boy-meets-girl story in which it just happens that the boy is a zombie - but wait: he can think, and feel things other than just hunger for brains! This is a somewhat odd but successful combination of romantic comedy with dystopian zombie flick, (a bit like Shaun of the Dead but less knowing and with much better-looking leads). Also sappy enough at heart that it works for date night, as the central message is that love conquers all, even zombification. Our hero is unable to express much more than grunts and groans, but he nevertheless has an entertainingly dry internal monologue, which also serves at times as narrative. The girl comes from one of the last remaining groups of humans, who live in a walled-off part of an unspecified city. It’s love at first sight for him, but obviously it takes the best part of the movie for her to come around to appreciating our hero’s appeal. While the movie, moving along at a splendid clip, might uncharitably be said to reduce any burgeoning sense of incredulity, it is nonetheless full of nice detail and characterization. One minor quibble I had was the issue of the hero’s buddy, another zombie of course, also making rather remarkable strides towards regaining his humanity without the benefit of a similar coup de coeur to explain it. But I gather the movie is based on a book and that some scenes between the two zom-buddies were cut, these probably would have helped to flesh out that part of the story. Go see it, or rent it later, but you won’t regret it unless you are as cold-hearted as a zombie.