



Zoo

Film Study Guide

Director: Colin McIvor

2017 | Fiction | 97 Minutes | Ireland, UK | English | Unrated

<http://www.samuelgoldwynfilms.com/zoo/>

Synopsis: Belfast 1941. Young Tom's (Art Parkinson, Game of Thrones) zookeeper father is enlisted in the army, leaving behind his family and the newest member of the zoo, baby elephant Buster. When German air raids threaten the safety of the zoo animals, Tom and his gang of misfit friends set out to rescue Buster with the help of an eccentric animal lover (Penelope Wilton, Downton Abbey). Inspired by true events, writer-director McIvor delivers an uplifting tale of dogged bravery.

Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. This film was based on true events. What parts of the story do you think actually happened? What parts were probably exaggerated or fabricated? How do you think the filmmaker decided what to keep in and what to discard?
2. Tom obviously has a lot of interest and love for animals. Is there something you would risk your life for? Do you think it was silly of Tom to save Buster by himself or did he do the right thing? Why or why not?

3. What do you think the theme of this movie was? Are there any valuable morals that you learned while watching? If so, what were they?
4. Do you think this would be possible to do today? How does the time period represented in the movie impact the way the story is told? Was it believable?
5. Did you learn anything new about WWII from watching this movie? Had you ever learned about WWII from the point of view of the northern Irish before? Were you aware Ireland was involved in WWII before watching this?
6. Why do you think the filmmaker chose to tell this story? What's special about it? Is there anything that's happened in your life that you can connect to the events portrayed in this movie?
7. What was your favorite scene from the film and why? What made this scene stand out to you? Connect your favorite scene to the major themes of the movie as a whole.
8. The filmmaker decided to include how the main characters' lives went on after this event. Were you surprised by how any of them grew up? What legacy do you think they left behind by helping Buster?