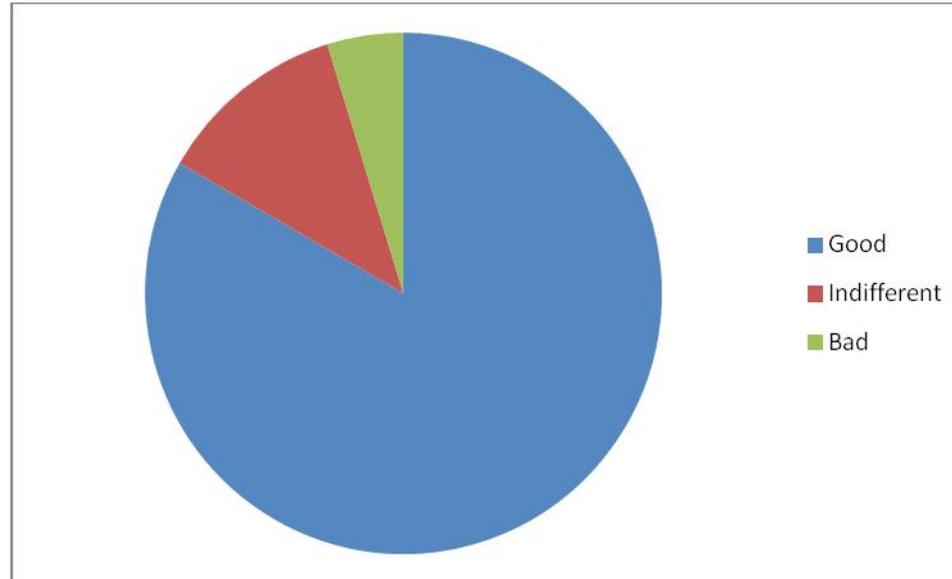


Review – The Selfish Giant



Good – 35	Indifferent – 5	Bad – 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very thought-provoking film, like a very grim Dickens novel... • Horribly realistic. With the massive Walpole switching station on our doorstep and no lack of 'scrappers' around, I was shocked but never surprised by that view into a slice of contemporary England. • I thought it was an excellent thought provoking film. Amazing performances by the two boys, playing characters who were totally believable. The problems of marginalisation in society have been around for years and years, yet we seem incapable of taking any concerted action, and just put sticking plaster over the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I knew the subject was going to be gloomy but I was not expecting it to be SO black. I was hoping there would be an uplifting ending but I was sorely disappointed. I did 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My review is "Bad/Awful/Dreadful". I'm basing this comment on the 20mins I was able to tolerate. Whilst appreciating we exist to offer opportunities to view

<p>cracks. A film which will remain in the memory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very good, sad and moving film. The young boys' acting was excellent, though had difficulty understanding some of their accents! Left us with a feeling of how futile life can be for struggling families. Well worth the accolades already given to the Director for this film. • Excellent, a very powerful film with tremendous performances from the cast. • I found the film very good but sad knowing that we still have so many children in similar situations here in England. Some parts I felt really uncomfortable watching as so much was very true to life although not acknowledged by many who just look at those families seeing them as undeserving and scroungers. • Although it took me time to 'get into it'. The performances were good although the two boys were difficult to understand at times. By mid-way I was drawn into it and the end was most moving. • The film was excellent! Thank you! • BUT --- still feeling shaken up this morning and all senses on high alert. To recover our equilibrium we endeavoured to work out a 'satisfactory' ending and hoped that, maybe, the young boy would become a jockey. Remarkably good acting. • But this is an understatement. A disturbing and devastating indictment of life in Britain in 2014. And not just in Yorkshire but also much closer/very close to home. Essential viewing for every politician, every reader of the 'Daily Mail', everybody. • We knew it was grim up North - but not as bad as that. Well told with some powerful performances and as usual it's the women who suffer. It's a pity they all had to be so potty mouthed. • Good film but not enjoyable! • Excellent. The child acting was very good, unusual story but 	<p>so much want to see Arbor & Swifty make good. The death scene was really shocking and I thought Arbor would see the error of his ways but instead it looked like he would continue in the scrap business. I was surprised too that Kitten confessed so readily. That did not go with his character. I know directors want realism in their films but I can do without so much swearing. It really spoils a film for me. I joined the film club to watch a good selection of films but can we please have more films where I leave the Arts Centre with a smile on my face.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was probably a 'good' film but an hour into it I'd had enough of this 	<p>a wide variety of genres this example of grunge and grime was too depressing for me.</p>
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guess that is life for some members of society and it made one think how lucky one is.

- I thought it was incredibly sad and very moving. It did however make me feel like a dictator as I wanted to stop some people having children all together as they ruin them!
- What you would call a gritty film only more so with all I hate in society. A very compelling & moving film with some brilliant acting especially from the youngsters.
- Incredibly good, but nobody could say they enjoyed it! I've rarely been to anything with such an obvious huge effect on the audience. We could hardly speak for ages. What a clever piece of work and brilliant direction.
- One of my guests thought it was too depressing and too much of the F word but we all thought that it was engrossing and people really do live like that even if some of us don't want to believe it. I liked the peaceful bits in between the human action. It left you wondering what would happen to Albert.
- Very different, bleak and sad but well acted by the boys. Unfortunately, can't stand the dreaded F word, plenty of those!!!
- I enjoyed it.
- But oh so challenging the film made me feel very sad and uncomfortable because it's real life for some.
- I thought the film was excellent! It was such a moving tale of two boys who had already been written off by society. How were they ever to get out of that awful spiral of hopelessness with no expectations and crime a feature of everyday life? I was gripped by their story. But they were resilient and each had something to offer. Their loyalty to each other. Arbor, his 'enterprising' nature and his willingness to comfort and help his Mum, even though it would involve more crime. Swifty his understanding and gentleness with the horses. Even though Kitten the scrapdealer

depressing story and left. So, for me, 'not enjoyable' rather than bad.

- Powerful! - my husband's verdict. Excellently done, but it did nothing for me personally, not my cup of tea. Diction was poor in places, especially the Fenton boy. Pity we weren't warned about the bad language. Presumably true to life, as far as the way some people live, and that life must have been absolutely horrendous. Still not sure we understand the relevance of the title, the jury is still out and opinions vary.
- We thought it was good in parts. It was certainly powerful and the 2 boys were very strong. However, we found it

as The Giant was exploiting them, they had been failed by other adults before then. Arbor was a nightmare in school, but where is the sense in excluding a child who was clearly not a regular attender? The performances by the two young lads were outstanding. The film never flagged. They were always centre.

- Excellent - what haunting performances by the two young leads, within a delicate and sensitive portrayal of such intensely brutalising poverty. This film surpassed my previously high expectations - definitely a future classic.
- The alternative categories are inappropriate for this disturbing film. It was memorable in that we cannot get it out of our minds. The acting was so good that it felt as though you were viewing a documentary. A very sad, depressing film that warrants a Good tag given that it certainly wasn't indifferent.
- A bleak portrayal of a sad way of life in Britain today, disturbingly accurate and well made piece of work. A good and thought provoking film. Only the sub titles were missing!
- We both thought the film was fantastic. It was a brave selection and the Programming Committee are to be congratulated. This film was gritty realism at its best; every element was exceptional, from the acting to the script, storyline and photography. It offered a complete picture of life at the bottom end of the scale and didn't flinch in showing the despair and utter hopelessness of most lives. What was surprising was the existence of friendship and humour and ultimately honour and redemption. An excellent choice, thank you

a bit difficult to hear the dialogue at times and also the constant use of expletives, whilst no doubt reflecting life, was irritating. It was a pretty bleak and thought-provoking tale and not a film we'd rush to see again, although I'm glad I saw it. My friend particularly liked the non-use of music which left us free to interpret scenes in our own ways.

- Although a well-acted and compelling story, its 'layered script' was too deeply layered with the F word - and not much else - for my sensibilities. This, combined with the brutality of life at the bottom of the scrapheap, made viewing heavy-going. Both good and bad,

	I'm afraid.	
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