

A TRIUMPHANT NEW FILM FROM THE PRODUCER OF **BILLY ELLIOT**
AND THE ACADEMY AWARD[®] NOMINATED DIRECTOR OF **SHINE**

Growing up can be the
adventure of a lifetime

MIRAMAX FILMS PRESENTS
CLIVE OWEN

THE BOYS ARE BACK

MIRAMAX FILMS PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BBC FILMS AND SCREEN AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FILM CORPORATION AND HIPPOCATCH PRODUCTIONS A TIGER ASPECT PICTURES PRODUCTION
AN ACCENT WITH SOUTHERN LIGHT FILMS & SCOTT HICKS AND CLIVE OWEN "THE BOYS ARE BACK" DINA BOOTH LAURA FRASER GEORGE MACKEY NICHOLAS MCANULTY AND RALPH LINDSEY "SUNSHINE RISE"
WRITTEN BY BELLA WRIGHT AND REMY SHERIN "YOUNG MELINDA DORING" AND SCOTT GRAY "JULIA" CHRIS FRASER "JULIE" PETER BENNETT-JONES CLIVE OWEN DAVID M. THOMPSON JANE WRIGHT
DIRECTED BY "THE BOYS ARE BACK" SIMON CARO "JULIA" ALLAN COOTE "CHRIS" BRENNAN AND "TIM WHITE" SCOTT HICKS
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INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Developed by Heartland Truly Moving Pictures to accompany *The Boys Are Back*, recipient of the Truly Moving Picture Award, an honored distinction given to films that unlock the vast potential of the human spirit and enable us to view stories that display courage, integrity and hope, taking entertainment to a higher level.

TrulyMovingPictures.org

BoysAreBackMovie.com



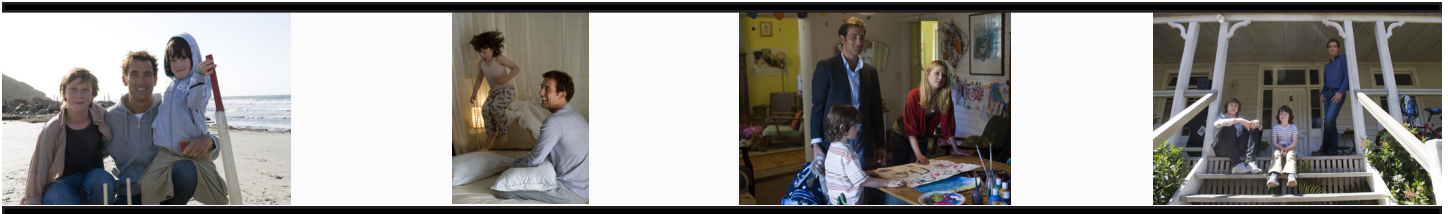
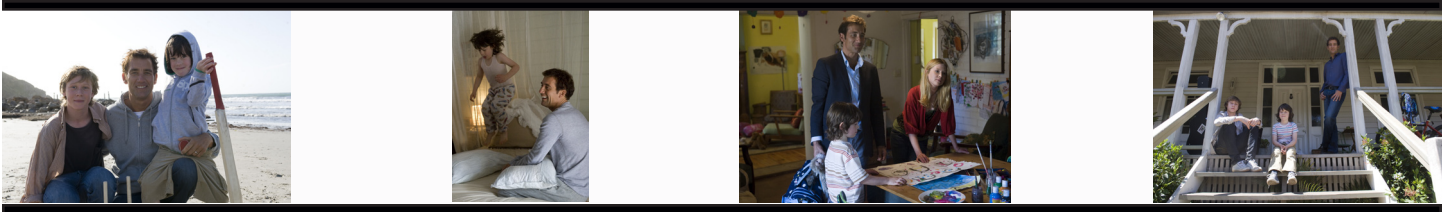


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The Boys Are Back © 2009 Miramax



One Film Can

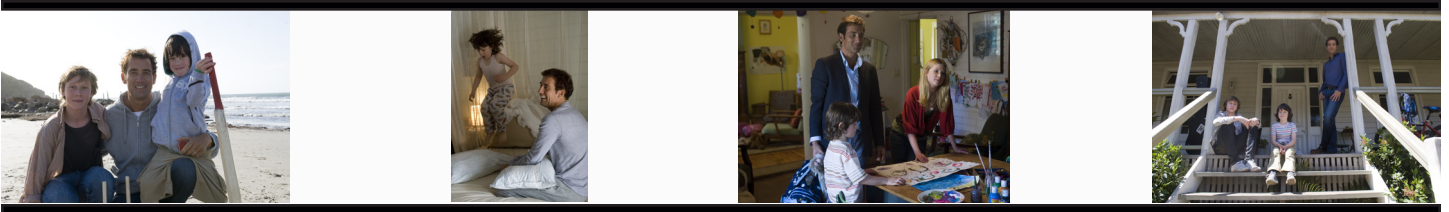
Heartland Truly Moving Pictures, a non-profit organization, recognizes and honors filmmakers whose work explores the human journey by expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life. We believe that one film can move us to laughter, to tears, or to make a difference. *The Boys Are Back* is a film that demonstrates that **One Film Can**.

Synopsis

Inspired by a true story, *The Boys Are Back* is a deeply moving, wryly confessional tale of fatherhood, that intimately evokes both the fragility and wonders of family life. It follows a witty, wisecracking, action-oriented sportswriter (Academy Award® nominee and Golden Globe® winner CLIVE OWEN) who, in the wake of his wife's tragic death, finds himself in a sudden, stultifying state of single parenthood. With turbulent emotions swirling just below the surface, Joe Warr throws himself into the only child-rearing philosophy he thinks has a shot at bringing joy back into their lives: "just say yes." Raising two boys – a curious six year-old (NICHOLAS MCANULTY) and a rebel teen (GEORGE MACKAY) from a previous marriage -- in a household devoid of feminine influence, and with an unabashed lack of rules, life becomes exuberant, instinctual, reckless . . . and on the constant verge of disaster.

United by unspoken love, conflicted by fierce feelings and in search of a road forward, the three multi-generational boys of the Warr household, father and sons alike, must each find their own way, however tenuous, to grow up. Their story is not just about the transforming power of a family crisis -- but the unavoidable grace of everyday life and love that gets them through.

Academy Award® nominee Scott Hicks (*Shine*) directs from a screenplay by Allan Cubitt based on the acclaimed 2001 memoir by Simon Carr, *The Boys Are Back*, an unflinchingly funny and honest recounting of his journey from grieving husband to full-contact fatherhood in the aftermath of profound loss. Shot on location in the stunning countryside of South Australia, the film is produced by Greg Brenman (*Billy Elliot*) and Tim White (*Ned Kelly*). The executive producers are Peter Bennett-Jones and Clive Owen.



A Look at the Book and Movie

The Boys are Back is based on Simon Carr's 2001 memoir, *The Boys are Back in Town*. As with any memoir, it was a difficult task to bring to the big screen for a multitude of reasons. The stories told in memoirs are based on real life and don't typically contain the rapid pace and exciting climax of a movie because everyday life isn't structured that way. Creating an engaging and impactful movie from a memoir is a task for a talented screenwriter.

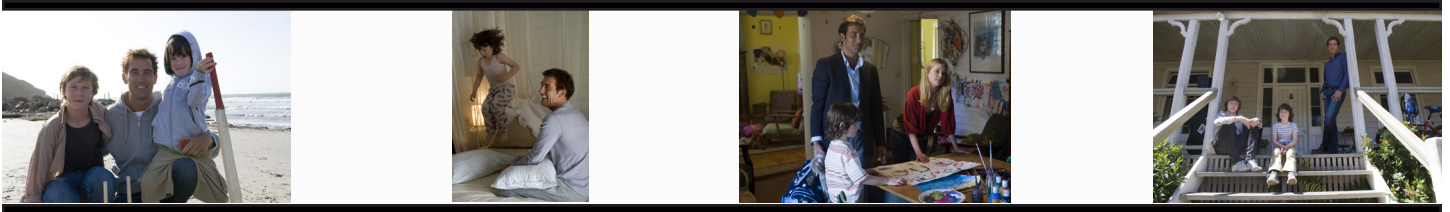
Allan Cubitt, the screenwriter selected for *The Boys are Back* says of the memoir, "I loved the book. There were so many things that struck me as true and interesting and funny. The challenge of it, though, was that it's very much structured as a memoir, as a series of reflections on life and death and parenting and everything else that comes into Simon's orbit. We had to take that essence and find a way to make it work in a film narrative."

The Boys are Back Production Notes, Courtesy of Miramax

After watching the movie and reading the book or portions of the book, discuss the questions below.

Discussion Questions

- Just a few of the changes from the book to the movie were that Simon Carr's character became Joe Warr. His profession changed from a political journalist to a sports writer. His first marriage dissolved before he met his second wife, without the affair. What are some other changes you noted between the book and the movie?
- Why do you believe these changes were made? What impact did they have on the story for you?
- If you read both the book and saw the movie, which one gave you a clearer picture of the struggles the main character faces as a single parent? Why?
- The book focuses on the struggles of a single parent, but it also delves into the struggle to balance female relationships harmoniously with the all-male family. The movie abstains from introducing female characters in a romantic capacity. What do you think of this decision? How do you feel a female interest would have changed your appreciation of the movie? Why?
- Can you think of other books or movies like *The Boys are Back* that focus on the struggles of parenting and also embrace the rewards? What are they and would you recommend them to others? What issues did these stories shed light on for you?



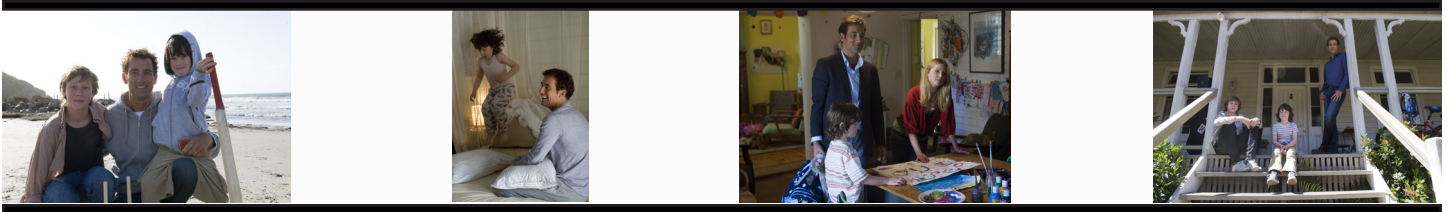
Roles in Parenting

The Boys Are Back is an insightful film about the struggles of parenting in all forms. It focuses on parenting through illness, being a single parent and being a father.

After viewing the movie, use the questions below to help prompt discussions on each of these topics.

Discussion Questions

- What was your reaction to Joe Warr's form of parenting in the film? Did your acceptance of his technique change over the course of the film? How?
- Do you believe that Joe Warr's approach to parenting is one with which others might identify? In what ways?
- Did you learn anything from Warr's parenting philosophy? What?
- Can you identify with any of Joe's struggles and difficulties of being a parent? What have been some of your parenting struggles and how have you dealt with them?
- Joe's style of parenting is at times uncomfortable and even scary. Even his oldest son, Harry, tells Joe that he scares him. What balance do you believe is necessary in parenting between playfulness and safety, and saying yes and saying no?
- The book and movie examine some of the differences between mothers and fathers. In your experience, how do the two genders parent differently? What is the impact of those different styles on the development of a child? Do you believe these styles of parenting are biological or based on societal expectations?
- Warr not only has to learn to be a single parent, but in that same period of time he is coping with the loss of his wife. What is the dynamic between he and his son that this loss causes?
- Children grieve differently than adults, depending on their age and comprehension of what has happened. Think about the way Artie deals with his mother's impending death in the film, and then his reaction to losing his mother. Have you ever dealt with a grieving child? How did you help the child with his or her grief?
- Although Joe is a loving father, in the movie he left his wife and son, Harry, to start a new family. Harry and Joe have very different understandings of why Joe left and started a new family. Use the scene in *The Boys are Back* where Harry confronts Joe on not being a part of his life to examine the impact that parents starting new families has on the children of their previous relationships. If this is a circumstance you have dealt with in your life, how have you handled it and made sure that all your children feel equally loved and appreciated?
- Like Joe learns to be a better parent over the course of time, all parents learn lessons about parenting as time goes by. What are some of the most valuable lessons you have learned about being a parent? Share some of your experiences with others.



Take Action

Life is a journey to be traveled no matter how bad the road.
Joe Warr, *The Boys Are Back*

Joe Warr encounters many difficulties in his life, but he also gains many rewards on the path that life takes him. His relationships with both his sons improves and he learns to value his family over work and reorganizes the priorities in his life.

Think about those things that Joe experiences over the course of the film and the support systems he could have used. Many of us experience these same issues either directly or through friends and family. Think about how you can be part of a support system that can help others through some of the bad roads in life.

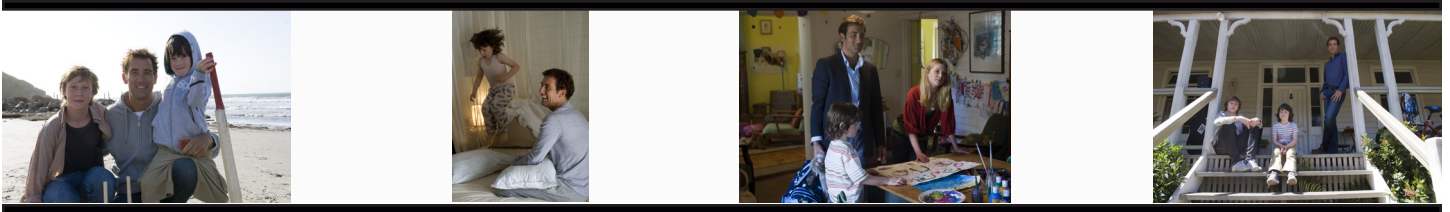
Resources

Children's Grief Support

www.childgrief.org
www.beyondindigo.com/children
www.childrensroom.org
www.grievingchildren.org

Single Parent Support

www.just4dads.org/singledads.html
www.diyfather.com
www.singleparentsnetwork.com
www.singleparentcenter.net
www.singlespouse.com



Moving Moments

The Boys Are Back has been honored as a Heartland Truly Moving Picture Award-winning film. This award was created to honor films released theatrically that align with Heartland's mission to recognize and honor filmmakers whose work explores the human journey by artistically expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life.

These award-winning movies are made up of moving and inspiring moments — those moments that cause you to think, see something in your life differently, be inspired to take positive action. It's what makes the movie and its message remain with you well after you've left the theater.

Think about *The Boys Are Back*. What were the moments that stood out to you? How did they make you feel? How will they cause you to think about things differently in the future? Share those moving moments with others at TrulyMovingPictures.org. Simply login, or create an account if you don't already have one, and search the movie list for *The Boys Are Back*. You can leave your review or comments about this film under the "Review" section.



The Boys Are Back © 2009 Miramax