

## Member and Guest Feedback for A Real Pain

A poignant film, highlighting the ironic title. Benji appears to be a real pain, not your ideal travel companion but further underlying pain is revealed. A sensitive film but not sure the continual bad language was necessary.

My wife gives it a Good and I give it a Poor. Unusual for us to have such different views.

Great season so far!

A really interesting and thoughtful story about the relationship between the cousins and their efforts to understand each other.

What a cracker - both lead actors were just great - in their own very idiosyncratic ways. Special congratulations to Kieran Culkin and his portrayal of a complex troubled man but someone with a real sense of humanity. The interplay between the two lead characters was so moving - each wanting and admiring each other but perplexed in their overall differences and different ways of grieving. The ending with Benji sitting alone at the airport was so tragic.

Enjoyable enough but not sure what it all meant in the end.

It treats a most important theme. The cinematography was good, the acting ditto.

Superb characterisation. Wide range of emotions across the sometimes bizarre moments. Not an easy watch. Worth it!

Interesting, humorous and disturbing film but it did not quite work for me. What became of Benji? Probably not a cheery future...

Cringingly good. I don't think there was a moral: you got what you saw.

Interesting relationship between the two cousins. One totally in his immediate emotional response to life which he grabbed with both hands with disregard for the consequences of his actions to himself or others and the other cousin with thoughtful, tentative feelings felt at an inner level but often not expressed. The reaction of the coach passengers was only the outgoing younger woman able to reach out to the emotionally charged cousin, the other passengers infuriated and rather appalled by him.

An excellent film, deftly mixing humor with serious issues but deliberately not suggesting solutions. Very good performances throughout the cast. Most obviously the leads but I thought the British tour leader (Will Sharpe) absolutely nailed the role. Great use of Chopin in the soundtrack with the counterpoint of heartbreaking silence when visiting the concentration camp. Some beautiful cinematography – isn't Poland beautiful?!

Simple, funny, good quality indy film. Enjoyed but not absolutely fantastic as felt it was lacking depth.

A funny movie making you laugh with Jews at a time when Netanyahu has become another despicable Putin. Good traditional Jewish comedy from New York.

Enjoyed this film very much. Superb acting: enjoyed the comedic dialogue and felt that the depiction of internal conflict and suffering was very well achieved. Poland looks beautiful.

I thoroughly enjoyed the film. I found the dialogue so funny.

Interesting but flawed. Some revelations but no real character development.

I had mixed feelings about this film. I understand why it was called A Real Pain but some parts were really too painful to be entertaining. Other parts were funny and well-acted but as I say, mixed feelings.

I got rather more from this film on a second viewing. Poignant, discomfiting and at times, funny. The piano score from Chopin was a perfect accompaniment.

There were nice location scenes and genuine human emotions. The tour guide was very good, as was the travelling party. I thought Kieran Culkin was a genuinely sad if irritating figure and outperformed Jesse Eisenberg.

Didn't really work for me and a lot of the jokes didn't land I'm afraid.

I loathed Benji and his irritating behavior but gradually came to understand that he was the person who needed the most help.

In the end I found this movie warmly significant but had to overcome my dislike of the obnoxiously charismatic cousin, their lack of comprehensible relationship and their failure to relate to the Polish population. Thinking on the film three days later I liked it far more.

Second viewing for me and a great selection. Sad and humorous at the same time, this is a poignant and sensitive treatment of a difficult ongoing family relationship with the Holocaust as a background. This film could have had an extended title - Two Neurotic Jews Go To Poland. The irony when Benji expostulates in the train about not meeting any Polish people is that they are merely a backdrop and this is not what the tour is about. Like most things in life, it is all about the self. Apart from David and Benji trying to reestablish their relationship and find a connection once again, this film is all about finding a connection, with the past, with your culture and even your religion but hard to do two generations down the line. Perhaps the one to whom it meant most was Elogie, who appeared to have the deepest connection to his new religion. As for the others, this was a pilgrimage but one wonders what it really meant to them in the end. Another interesting theme was the drift between Benji and David; one getting on relatively successfully in his life whilst the other seems doomed. Great performances from the cast; Kieran Culkin produces a show stopping turn but the standouts for me were Will Sharpe as the long-suffering and all too obliging tour guide and Kurt Egyiawan as the convert and the only one that had personal experience of a genocide.

I thought it well made, interesting, funny, unexpected but it petered out at the end and was rather shapeless. My husband, who despite wearing his hearing aids and who sat near the speakers got perhaps one word in twenty. Therefore, he scores this a Poor.

Hollywood's annual holocaust movie. The lighthearted scenes were more convincing than Benji's attempts at pathos.

Interesting movie which explores what you see on the surface may be different to what is really happening.

A surprisingly moving and thought-provoking film - moving in a slightly different way to my expectations: the two cousins were well portrayed as very different men with a common heritage which they had dealt with in different ways. Benji was almost difficult to watch due to his unpredictability and annoying nature - we could certainly empathise with the rest of the tour party and feel the pain of his cousin (David?) as Benji's backstory was revealed. The range of emotions and rationales in the party for processing their experiences and reactions to events were well portrayed and forced us to consider how we would react in such situations, knowing how closely a relative came to death in that time and place and the train scene with Benji was both painful to watch and also humorous - not an easy feat to accomplish. The places visited certainly hinted at the grandeur and riches (cultural and economic) of pre-WWII Poland and the grandmother's heritage - certainly makes me want to see more of the country! I was a little puzzled at the vague ending though - thought we were going to see Benji return to Poland (or move to the city and make changes to his life) and whilst I appreciate why a film maker leaves an ambiguous ending open to interpretation, I prefer endings with a bit more clarity! Many thanks, a film well worth showing.

We are asked to admire an objectionable character and when will the import and smoking of pot stop being admired by film makers!! My second very strong objection to this film. And yes, the film should have included Polish residents - a much more powerful reaction to the ghettos and death camp than that of the tourists who avoided meeting the people whose sympathies still need to be expressed and explored.

Lots of good acting and scenery but I think I missed the heart of the story/message. Sad cousin/ holocaust trauma/ other?

An excellent, engaging film. Characters were well defined, showing how pain and trauma goes down through the generations and manifest itself in different ways in each personality.

We have just returned from the screening of this film having left the auditorium long in advance of the actual end of the screening. This is most unusual for us as long standing and regular members; we practically never "walk out" of screenings anywhere. The reason for our sudden departure was the lack of subtitles and consequent inability to concentrate on the soundtrack. We have attended RFS screenings of films in languages other than English confident that the subtitles will be clear and "user friendly" Your clear statement at the AGM on the policy on subtitles for films in English was much appreciated but still a disappointment. I do not regard subtitles as an intrusion but an essential part of the experience of viewing foreign language films: we are quite capable of listening and viewing at the same time!

The initial portrayal of David - the Real Pain - was so successful that I lost sympathy for him. His redeeming effect on others by the end was too contrived for me.

For me, the title A Real Pain refers to both the behaviour of Benji and also the pain he is in. However, why he feels that way is not really explored; he is alone but is that cause or effect? The repeated use of the F-word was lazy, a few times to make the point would be OK but did we need to hear it nearly every time he spoke?

The film had some amusing comedic episodes, but I found Benjie too irritating, which perhaps was the point! Although wearing my hearing aids, I found some of the dialogue difficult to hear.

I had seen it before and liked it better this time, in particular the very sensitively handled Auschwitz scenes and the lovely Chopin music. I found Benjy very irritating and selfish but as the film developed began to realise how troubled he was. The ending with him remaining at the airport was very sad. The actors playing David and the tour guide were excellent. Nice to see another large audience for this film.

I found this film to be relying too much on the Holocaust to give it substance.

Great interaction between the characters, absorbing in its execution and raising much material for thought.

Very funny and a great but grating performance by Kieran Culkin. The film lacked the depth and emotional punch I was expecting. Will Sharpe brilliant as the tour guide.