



The Main Feature

Season 37 - Issue 9 screening 26.1.17

UK 2016
Cert 12A 1hr 46m

Directed by Dexter Fletcher
Written by Sean Macaulay
and Simon Kelton
Cinematography George
Richmond
Music by Matthew Margeson
Edited by Martin Walsh



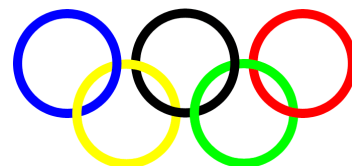
Cast

Eddie (10 years old)	Tom Costello	Dustin Target	Tim McInnerny
Janette (Mum)	Jo Hartley	Matti Nykänen	Edvin Endre
Terry (Dad)	Keith Allen	Petra	Iris Berben
UK Doctor	Dicken Tolson	Bjørn the Norwegian Coach	Rune Temte
Eddie (15 years old)	Jack Costello	Bronson Peary	Hugh Jackman
Eddie Edwards	Taron Egerton	Commentator	Jim Broadbent
Richmond (BOA Official)	Mark Benton		



"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

— **Pierre de Coubertin**



Living in sports-mad households – my father, brothers, husband and children all being avid sports fans – I've always found the Olympic Games hard to avoid (try as I might!). The summer games hog the television schedules and dominate the newspapers – front and back pages. Mexico 1968 was the first one I really noticed and Munich in 1972 coincided with starting a paper round, so I couldn't miss the drama in the stadium and the horror in the athletes' village. Every Olympic Games has something or someone that marks it out, for good or ill.

Even for people who aren't particularly interested in sport, some athletes' names resonate down the years: Jesse Owens, Lynn "The Leap" Davies, David Hemery, Lillian Board, Mary Peters, Lasse Viren, Paul Nihill,

Mark Spitz. The Winter Olympic Games have been less memorable – I don't particularly like snow for a start – but one made an impression even on me. Plasterer turned ski jumper Michael “Eddie” Edwards was the talking point of the Calgary Games in 1988 (shown in action at the games in the photo below). He was never expected to win a medal, most of us thought he was more likely to break several bones than any records; but it was this very quality that endeared him to the British tv audience, who love nothing better than an underdog. Thus far, the film and real life more or less agree. As for the rest, the film indulged in a certain amount of artistic licence, as Eddie himself told Libby Purves on “Midweek” on Radio 4 in June 2016.

Brought up in Cheltenham, Eddie was a regular visitor to the winter sports centre at Gloucester. He became an accomplished cross-country skier. Both his parents were very supportive (a curmudgeonly Dad makes for a better film, magnificently played by Keith Allen) but he was not quite good enough to make the national squad in that particular discipline. He didn't get sponsorship: the milk-based diet shown in the film was not a million miles from the truth – he learned to eat almost anything as he could afford almost nothing. He was on the verge of giving up and going home when he



realised that there had never been a British ski-jumper and decided he should try it out. The rest, as they say, is history - which doesn't include the maverick former US champion seeing his potential and deciding to become his coach (though that invented character is also good film fare).

Despite his woeful results, Eddie remained chirpy and determined, with a gawky charm that made him a star. He was much in demand to open sports facilities and shops, travelled the world and enjoyed it while it lasted. Now he lives in Stroud, working as a plasterer and bringing up a family. In interviews for the release of the film, he claims, entirely believably, that he holds no bitterness over the way other competitors and the British Olympic Committee treated him and resented his elevation to poster-boy for the discipline despite being relatively useless at it. There was no medal at the end but at least that means he won't have to sell it (as Nobby Stiles did with his World Cup winner's medal) to avoid a fight among his children later on over who gets to inherit! Eddie's re-emergence into the spotlight only reinforces the memories of a happy-go-lucky young man who worked to realise his dream.

There must have been something about the Calgary Winter Olympics in 1988 as at the same time Edwards was wowing the crowds at the ski jump, the Jamaican bobsleigh team became unlikely superstars, even though they didn't even finish their four-man event. Their story was made into the funny and enjoyable movie with the clever title “Cool Runnings”.

However not all sportsmen now appear to share the Olympic ideal:

"I didn't get into golf to try and grow the game. I got into golf to
win championships and win majors."

Rory McIlroy on skipping the 2016 Olympics

(It must also be reported that in addition he did say "I'll watch the Olympics, but probably not golf. I'll watch track and field, swimming, diving -- you know, ones that matter.")

So sit back and enjoy the film, and remember one of the poster slogans for the film: “Win or lose, always aim high!”

Gill McGlashan (with a little help from Iain)

*The printing of the notes by Repropoint
is undertaken free of charge*

Anyone remember when the National Anthem was played in UK cinemas?

Twelve people were arrested on Monday evening at a cinema in India, after they remained seated while the national anthem played.

They were attending an international film festival in the city of Trivandrum in Kerala, were later freed but they face charges of "failure to obey an order issued by a public servant, thereby causing obstruction or annoyance to others".

And at a cinema in Chennai on Sunday, eight people who did not stand for the anthem were assaulted and abused, police said. The eight were later charged with showing disrespect to the anthem.

The arrests and reports of assault follow last month's Supreme Court ruling that the national anthem be played before every film and that audiences stand while it is played - and they make it clear that authorities are taking the ruling seriously.

"If we did not sit on chairs, I thought we would lose the seats," one detainee told the Indian Express.

The controversial ruling - cheered by the ruling Hindu nationalist BJP - comes at a time of routine demands on Indians to display patriotism, and this is not the first time people have been targeted for not respecting the national song.

In October, a disabled man who had been carried from his wheelchair to a seat described how he was assaulted by other members of the audience for not standing for the anthem.

In the past three years, people have been thrown out cinemas and even charged with sedition for not standing up for the anthem.

A 1971 law makes any obstruction to the singing of the song "or causing disturbances to any assembly engaged in such singing" punishable by a three-year prison term and/or a fine.

But October's Supreme Court ruling gives national authority to what was previously a rash of loosely-followed, state-specific laws.

The ruling says that the anthem must be played in all cinemas, accompanied by an image of the Indian flag, and everyone must stand. It also stated that the doors must be closed to prevent people from entering or leaving. The court later amended the ruling to exempt disabled people and to make it clear that doors must not be bolted.



Comments and reactions to: **Spotlight**

Brilliant film which publicises issue

And the Catholic church survives! Great film

A film that needed to be made – food for thought!

An Oscar winner that deserved it's award

Bit difficult to hear the dialogue

Much improved with subtitles – impressive “reportage” film

The power of the written word! Tragic it took so long to be printed

A bit procedural during the first half but a story that needed to be told

Great film, much improved with subtitles thank you. The power of the press.

All of which demonstrates why we must insist on a free press (thanks for the subtitles)

Horrifying that this abuse is still being covered up by churches – thought provoking film

Heartbreaking!!

A shocking story

Deeply troubling but inspiring

Gripping although you knew the end

Very worthwhile theme – faultlessly told

Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	9	10	8	3

No of reaction slips received = 30

Average Score = 8.17

Position	Film	Average Score
1 st	Bridge of Spies	8.24
2 nd	Spotlight	8.17
3 rd	The Good Lie	7.5
4 th	Carol	6.97
5 th	Gunfight at the OK Corral	6.9
6 th	The Big Parade	6.82
7 th	Hector	6.44
8 th	Comme Une Image	5.82

Our next film on 9 February 2017:



“Brooklyn is the very essence of a simple story, beautifully told.”

“A heart-affecting immigrant love story with a genuine and poignant performance by Saoirse Ronan.”

“Brooklyn should please crowds of all ages and tastes. It's quality filmmaking.”

“The kind of movie that makes you want to hug someone you love, and thankful you've got them close enough to do so.”