

Film Title and Release Date: *Handsome Devil* (2017)

Length of Film in Minutes: 95 minutes

Film Genre: Drama/Comedy

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Benjamin W., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: October 8, 2020

This film takes place at an all boys boarding school in Ireland. The school is obsessed with rugby and bullying is a big problem there.

Ned's parents don't care about him. While they go live in Dubai, they send Ned to a boarding school so they don't have to take care of him. But at the boarding school, Ned does not belong in any way. He gets bullied within half an hour of arriving and while most of the kids play or watch rugby, he does neither. He gets instantly classified as gay and the other kids make weird noises at him. To make it even worse, his roommate named Connor is the best rugby player around. Connor is nothing like Ned. While Ned spends his time sitting down and doing nothing, Connor does pushups and goes for runs. Connor left his old school for fighting but he never tells anyone why he was fighting. Ned and Connor get off on a rocky start, with Ned piling up furniture in the middle of the room to form his version of the Berlin Wall. But music brings them together and they eventually become friends. Their English teacher Mr. Sherry coaches them on singing and playing the guitar so they can eventually perform. However, as the rugby season goes on and the school gets closer and closer to winning the league, Connor begins seeing Ned less and less. Connor has practice everyday and his teammates, the same kids that bullied Ned when he first got to school, don't let Connor have free time to hang out. Ned feels like he's losing his only friend and what he does next is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to him. And it might have caused him to lose his only friend permanently. Connor disappears the next day and it's up to Ned to find him and get him back.

Now, I will answer some questions about the film:

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)? - I found this film through subject search. I wanted to watch a comedy and Handsome Devil was in the most popular section.

Did the plot keep you interested? - This plot definitely kept me interested. The plot was really funny and there was a good amount of action. I always wanted to know what embarrassing thing Ned would do next.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right? - I think the pace of this film was just right. The film moved along well and the action prevented it from becoming too slow. There were some slow scenes with Mr. Sherry talking to Ned or Connor or both but they weren't a bad part of the film.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for? - I think this film is appropriate for kids in grades 7-12. Ned puts inappropriate pictures up in his dorm room and the kids are taking a sex class at the beginning of the film.

I would rate this film *4 stars*. The plot was good but I've seen many other films with better plots. The acting was good and the movie was very funny. Everything was clear so I wasn't confused about any parts. I thought the sex class scene was unnecessary because it didn't have anything to do with the plot and it doesn't appear later either.