

Film Title and Release Date: *Sea to Shining Sea* (2019)

Length of Film in Minutes: 85 minutes

Film Genre: Drama/Comedy

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

Date Reviewed: August 26, 2020

This film takes place all across the United States. The main characters start from California and travel across the country to get to New York. They visit many famous landmarks like the Grand Canyon and the 4-corners spot.

Boerleider and Monihan are old skateboarding buddies who live in different countries, see differently in just about everything, and are way past their prime. They haven't seen each other in more than a decade but Monihan decides to invite Boerleider on a roadtrip across the U.S. Boerleider thinks this will be a fun trip where they will ride in a sports car and maybe do some skateboarding. However, that is not the case. Monihan isn't even able to pick Boerleider up from the airport and instead of a sports car, Monihan has an almost broken Subaru. The air conditioning doesn't work and Boerleider can't even drive. As for skateboarding, they are just way too old. Nevertheless, they make it to New York with a lot of interesting adventures along the way.

Boerleider comes from Europe and believes in stuff like aliens. He doesn't get some things in America like why a small sized drink is the size of a large one from where he's from. Boerleider is very goofy and doesn't take things seriously. Monihan is a lot more rational than Boerleider. He appreciates art and the beauty of things. He is a very fair man and doesn't like the injustices based on where you're from or what nationality you are.

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 by subject search. I wanted to watch a comedy and *Sea to Shining Sea* was in the most popular section.

Did the plot keep you interested? - This plot didn't really keep me interested. The plot wasn't that good and it was boring at times. One of the main characters was really funny and he always kept me interested but the other character was boring because half the time, he just laughed at what the other person said.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right? - I think the pace of this film was too slow. There was really no action in the film and it moved forwards slowly. Most of the film consisted of talking, driving, walking, or sleeping. There was only one part that was kind of fast.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for? - I think this film is appropriate for kids in grades 7-12. There's a good amount of cursing in this film and some inappropriate things too. They're all for comedy purposes but this film wouldn't be suitable for younger kids .

I would rate this film *3 stars*. There were some good parts but a lot of the plot and acting in this film was pretty boring. Boerleider was really funny and would usually make me laugh but Monihan wouldn't. There was no action and it was too slow.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yujay A., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: November 28, 2020

In *Sea to Shining Sea*, two friends, Borleider and Monihan, take a road trip across the country. Both are former skateboarders, and met through skateboarding. Borleider's dream was to visit and see the United States, as he lives in Amsterdam. One day, Monihan, who lives in the U.S., invites Borleider to fly into the states and take a road trip with him in a "sports car". When Borleider arrives, things already start off bad, as the "sports car" turns out to be an old Subaru, and Monihan is not there to pick up Borleider. Both Borleider and Monihan turn out to be washed up at skateboarding, but Borleider is much more rusty than Monihan, who can do some basic tricks. The car is barely functioning, the air conditioner does not work, and Borleider is unable to drive. Eventually, Borleider and Monihan make it to New York from California, while visiting many tourist attractions, such as the Golden Gate Bridge, the Four Corners border, and the Grand Canyon. The pair go through many amusing adventures including run ins with the police, but Monihan's father falls gravely ill during the trip. Much of the movie is interesting or humorous conversations between Borleider and Monihan in the car, hotels, or restaurants, which help us learn a lot about the characters.

Borleider is a superstitious character who believes in aliens and conspiracy theories, while Monihan is much more rational and logical. Monihan thinks deeply and rejects government and discrimination, while Borleider is much less serious and more humorous.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?

I found *Sea to Shining Sea* on Kanopy by browsing in the comedy movies section. I wanted to watch a funnier type of movie so I looked at the comedy section.

Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?

The plot of the story was not very interesting, as there was no action or real danger, and many of the conversations that took place were not very humorous. The movie did have some deep or funny conversations, but overall, the pace was slow and the plot was not engaging enough, making it difficult to stay interested.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the film was too slow, as there was little to no suspense or action, and the characters had no large conflict they were dealing with. Much of the movie was conversations between Borleider and Monihan, and these became boring at times.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

This film is appropriate for grades 9 and up, as there is much strong language and mature or inappropriate topics. These make the movie funnier, but make the movie suited towards an older audience.

I would rate *Sea to Shining Sea* 2 stars, as the pace of the movie was too slow, and the plot was not interesting or engaging. Although the movie was a comedy, at times the humor was dry and there were many pointless scenes that added neither comedy nor depth to the story. I felt as if the movie could have used more action and exciting scenes to speed up the pace. The conversations between Monihan and Borleider were occasionally funny or interesting, but overall, I did not enjoy this movie.