

Movie Reflections

The Greatest Showman

The Greatest Showman is a musical, loosely based on the life P.T. Barnum. A humble tailor's son, Barnum (Hugh Jackman), wins the heart of rich, society girl, Charity Hallett (Michelle Williams) and the two marry, despite her father's grave misgivings. Though they live a life of poverty, Charity is happy and content. Barnum, on the other hand, is driven by a desire to give her a better life.

Barnum has a scheme for a museum of the exotic and manages to con a bank into giving him a loan. The museum doesn't do very well and his children suggest it's because there's nothing live in it. At this, Barnum hunts for 'freaks' who people will pay to see. He soon discovers a bearded lady, a giant, a 500lb man and a man covered in hair, among others. They start to produce a live show, which is soon christened 'a circus'. While critics are sniffy, it becomes very popular.

In an effort to gain the acceptance of the upper classes, Barnum employs the renowned playwright, Phillip Carlyle (Zac Efron). The circus' status grows as a result. Before too long, Barnum and his performers are invited across the Atlantic to Buckingham Palace to meet Queen Victoria. Yet even this recognition isn't enough for Barnum who is obsessed with being accepted by all, despite the increasing toll this takes on all his relationships, especially with his wife.

One of many themes coming from the film is Generosity, this is what we would like you to focus on now.

Generosity

Phillip Carlyle (Zac Efron) displays generosity throughout the film in relationships, time, and by the end in money. When P.T. Barnum is down and out when all he has left is a pile of burned out rubble it is Philip that shows extraordinary generosity by offering his savings to reignite their dreams.



Discuss a time when someone demonstrated extraordinary generosity towards you? How did this make you feel?

Why is it sometimes hard to be generous or to show generosity?

Discuss together three ways you can demonstrate generosity this week.