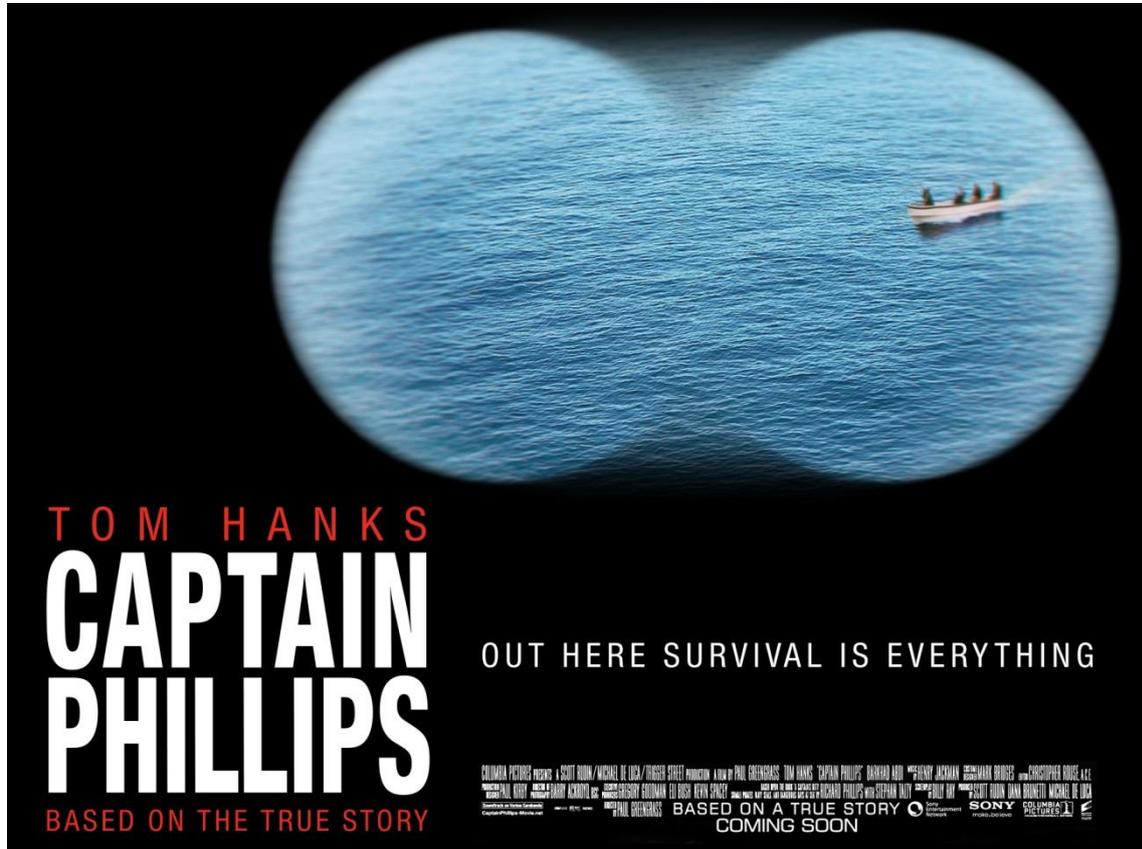


The Main Feature



Season 35 - Issue 8 (screening 15.1.15)



USA 2013 (UK release 18.10.13) Cert 12A Running time 2hr 14 min

Director: Paul Greengrass.

Screenplay: Billy Ray; based on Richard Phillips and Stephan Talty's book *A Captain's Duty: Somali Pirates, Navy SEALs, and Dangerous Days at Sea*.

Cinematography: Barry Ackroyd

Editing: Christopher Rouse

Music: Henry Jackman

Cast:

Tom Hanks	Captain Richard Phillips	Catherine Keener	Andrea Phillips
Barkhad Abdi	Muse	Barkhad Abdirahman	Bilal
Faysal Ahmed	Najee	Mahat M. Ali	Elmi
Michael Chernus	Shane Murphy	Corey Johnson	Ken Quinn
Max Martini	Seal Commander	Omar Berdouni	Nemo
Chris Mulkey	John Cronan	David Warshofsky.	Mike Perry
Yul Vazquez	Captain Frank Catellano		

Smart, powerfully acted, and incredibly intense, Captain Phillips offers filmgoers a Hollywood, with particularly good acting by the main characters.

It's truly a masterclass of writing and editing, as it breezes through the 134 minute run time without a single dull moment. It's efficient storytelling, eschewing unrealistic monologues and lengthy exposition, yet still supplying ample thematic and character depth.

Hanks (last seen at WNCC in Saving Mr Banks) gives an accomplished display, underplaying the heroism to give it that everyman quality that we've come to love from him. This is a slightly different version though.

Throughout his career his acting has often felt "young" (or at least younger than he is), but here he fully embraces the experienced confidence of the character. It's almost like we're seeing a new movie star emerge in front of our eyes.



On the other hand, a truly new actor is presented in Abdi. In his first ever film role, he gives it a fearless authenticity that's effectively unrefined. His dialogue scenes sometimes show his inexperience, but there's no denying his natural ability.

Furthermore, as is the case with the best Greengrass films, each member of his cast is perfectly on point in the film. This includes David Warshofsky, Corey Johnson, and Chris Mulkey, a trio of splendid character actors

who play members of Phillips' crew, Max Martini as a Navy SEAL commander, and, specifically, Barkhad Abdi as the leader of the Somali pirates. Every man involved evokes the absolute appropriate mood in each scene they're featured in.

However the best elements of the film are Paul Greengrass' direction and the cinematography by Barry Ackroyd, both of whom have been nominated for Oscars before in their respective fields. Greengrass is well-known for being able to create tension with his techniques in films like "United 93", "The Bourne Supremacy," and "The Bourne Ultimatum." Here he uses his skills to great effect once again, delivering a film that gives a riveting "you are there" feeling to the experience. Ackroyd's cinematography adds to the effect with lots of handheld camera shots, something that leads to what some commonly refer to as "shaky cam," but here it works extremely well.

One critic wrote "Not only a riveting drama about quiet heroism, but an eye-opening look at a clash of cultures."

Iain McGlashan

PS if you get the chance I would also urge you to see "A Hijacking" a Danish film which covers the same theme, albeit in a format that focuses on the human toll on the captives, their families and their employers back home, but which also manages to be a very tense film.



From The Guardian

(14 October 2013 - <http://www.theguardian.com/film/2013/oct/14/captain-phillips-tom-hanks-real-life-no-hero>)

Sailors who endured the real-life attack by Somali pirates which forms the basis of Oscar-tipped thriller Captain Phillips have condemned the version of events shown in the film.

Crew members of the Maersk Alabama, which suffered the raid off the coast of lawless Somalia in April 2009, told the New York Post the titular hero played by Tom Hanks was far from heroic. The sailors, who are suing their employers Maersk Line and the Waterman Steamship Corp for \$50m, said Richard Phillips was a sullen, self-righteous man: their suit claims the captain's wilful disregard for his crew's safety contributed to the attack.

"Phillips wasn't the big leader like he is in the movie," said one crew member who worked closely with the captain, speaking anonymously for legal reasons. "No one wants to sail with him," he told the Post.

The crew member said Phillips, who went on to meet Barack Obama and write a memoir, refused to cut power and lock himself and the crew below deck in line with anti-pirate protocol. "He didn't want anything to do with it, because it wasn't his plan," said the crew member. "He was real arrogant."

Phillips has denied being aware of such a plan.

The sailors' lawyer, Deborah Waters, told the Post: "The crew had begged Captain Phillips not to go so close to the Somali coast. He told them he wouldn't let pirates scare him or force him to sail away from the coast.

"It is galling for them to see Captain Phillips set up as a hero," she added. "It is just horrendous, and they're angry."

This week the BAFTA nominations were announced:

Best Film

Birdman Boyhood The Grand Budapest Hotel The Imitation Game
The Theory of Everything

Outstanding British Film

The Theory of Everything '71 The Imitation Game Paddington
Pride Under the Skin

Film Not in the English Language

Ida Leviathan The Lunchbox Trash Two Days, One Night

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Reactions to: **Sunshine on Leith**

Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	~	~	1	~	2	2	5	14	8	3	1

Total received – 36

Average Score – 6.92

Your Comments

Certainly covered every emotion, and what music! Silly
 Not my type of film but enjoyable A “musical” film...nice one!
 Great film to end the year – Happy Christmas Good start to Xmas
 An unexpected delight! Absolute cringel
 Definitely feel good – ideal choice for the season Jolly
 Cheesy, great songs, a Scottish Mamma Mia Cheesy, feel good, enjoyable
 So the plan was Mamma Mia in Scotland? Didn’t work for me
 Some good set piece with ensemble dancing – rather slow
 Bit slow at times, almost worth it just for the last sequence
 A nice little film with attractive scenery – wish I could have understood the accents
 Don’t normally like musicals but very much enjoyed it. Good to see Peter Mullan play a role other than a violent alcoholic!
 Scotland has rarely looked so good (and the film reminded me of Les Demoiselles de Rochefort)
 Excruciating! Musicals are best left to those with a talent in that direction
 Amazing – for me the best film since I joined the club

Position	Film	Average Score
1 st	Saving Mr Banks	7.78
2 nd	A Royal Affair	7.76
3 rd	All Quiet on the Western Front	7.19
4 th	Wadjda	7.06
5 th	Sunshine on Leith	6.92
6 th	Behind the Candelabra	6.47
7 th	Mintras Duermes	5.8

Our next film

Thursday 25 January 2015

“It is a deeply moving and heartfelt story that makes an indelible impression on the viewers' hearts and minds.”

“Engaging wartime drama that pulls off a bold narrative shift, thanks to impressive direction and superb performances from a talented ensemble cast.”

“Beautifully and poignantly captures the complexities of being a Jew in France from the 1930's to the present.”

