

Neutral Bay Probus

Movie Enjoyment Group

You are cordially invited to our next meeting to see “Jojo Rabbit” (108 mins)

Directed by: Taika Waititi **Cast :** Scarlett Johansson, Roman Griffin Davis, Thomasin McKenzie, Taika Waititi



It’s springtime for Hitler and life is beautiful. At least it is for Johannes “Jojo” Betzler, a 10-year-old German boy who’s been thoroughly indoctrinated by Hitler Youth. That is, until he discovers that his mother is hiding a Jewish girl at home and, boom, his world turns upside down.

At the Toronto Film Festival, where Jojo Rabbit premiered last month, the critical hand-wringing about the film’s uneasy mix of slapstick and sentiment did nothing to stop the movie from winning the coveted People’s Choice Award, often an Oscar harbinger (like last year’s Green Book). Our suggestion: Stick with Waititi. Give or take a few structural stumbles, he’s worth following anywhere.

With his father at war (during the waning weeks of World War II), responsibility for Jojo falls solely to his mother, Rosie, beautifully played by Scarlett Johansson in a performance of uncommon complexity and feeling. Rosie is clearly appalled by her son’s Nazi rhetoric. In one telling scene, she walks him past a line of Jews hanging from the gallows. The boy’s response — a babyish “yuck” — is a lesson in how denial is taught to more than just children.

But it’s in the small moments that Jojo Rabbit achieves its greatest impact. Waititi’s faith in the notion that a child will lead us out of ignorance may be naïve. It’s also deeply affecting. Besides, isn’t truth always the first casualty of indoctrination, whether you live in the era of fake news or not? The first words of the Leuenens novel come to mind: “The great danger of lying is not that lies are untruths, and thus unreal, but that they become real in other people’s minds.”

[Peter Travers: Rolling Stone]

WHEN: Monday 24 February 2020

TIME: 10:10am for a 10:20am start
(you will need to buy your own ticket)

WHERE: Cremorne Orpheum Cinema 380 Military Rd Cremorne
<http://www.orpheum.com.au/session-times>

Afterwards: Discussion over lunch/coffee at a nearby café
Please contact David before or after the film

Wives, Partners, Welcome

Contact Details: David Bruce-Steer
dobs@ozemail.com.au
0455 655 451