LIFEGUARD TELLS THE FULL STORY

By Ronald W. Jensen

One evening a neighbor and I was sitting around talking. He had been a high-ranking official at a large hospital in Southern California before retiring, and we were discussing the job of a lifeguard. "At one time," he said, "I had a dream of being a lifeguard." I smiled. "Like a lifeguard," he added, "I would come to work every day, and I would stay there until the sun set." He paused. "From the moment he arrived at the beach he never saw his own reflection or the sun until it was time to leave. If you asked him to work overtime, he'd say no - he'd never complain. When the rest of the guards had a problem and would call a meeting to plan strategy, Al would stay home. He couldn't have been happier. He never had an original thought." "Yes, Mr. Ron," my neighbor agreed, "in that you stand too much." Shortly after I took the job at the Del Mar Lifeguard Station, which would come to be known as the world's best, I was walking down the main street of the village one evening. As I approached the intersection, I saw a man running toward me. "What happened?" I asked. "A car just hit a child," he replied. "We need help." I thanked him and ran toward the scene. When I arrived, I saw a young boy lying on the ground, bleeding from a head wound. I called for an ambulance and began to administer first aid. As I was doing this, I noticed a group of young men standing nearby, watching the scene with concern. I asked them if they saw the accident. They replied that they had. I thanked them and continued to administer first aid. As I was doing this, I noticed a group of young men standing nearby, watching the scene with concern. I asked them if they saw the accident. They replied that they had. I thanked them and continued to administer first aid. It was then that I realized that I was not alone in this. I had a dream of being a lifeguard, and I would stay on duty until the sun set. If you asked me to work overtime, I'd say no - I'd never complain. When the rest of the guards had a problem and would call a meeting to plan strategy, I would stay home. I couldn't have been happier. I never had an original thought."

The incident called into question some of the most fundamental assumptions that have been made about lifeguarding and the nature of public service.

"Wow, you're a lifeguard?" a passerby asked. "Yes, sir," I replied. "I was actually on duty when this happened." I explained that I was on duty when the accident occurred and that I had administered first aid to the injured child. "I see," the passerby said. "It's a tough job." I thanked him and continued to administer first aid. As I was doing this, I noticed a group of young men standing nearby, watching the scene with concern. I asked them if they saw the accident. They replied that they had. I thanked them and continued to administer first aid. It was then that I realized that I was not alone in this. I had a dream of being a lifeguard, and I would stay on duty until the sun set. If you asked me to work overtime, I'd say no - I'd never complain. When the rest of the guards had a problem and would call a meeting to plan strategy, I would stay home. I couldn't have been happier. I never had an original thought."

I called. The police at the Del Mar Lifeguard Station had become accustomed to this, although they were somewhat surprised at the unusual call. I was congratulated on a job well done."

Political considerations and artificial boundaries shouldn't interfere with the business of saving lives. The former Del Mar Lifeguard had been seated at a meeting of the city council. He had just finished speaking when the call came through. He placed the call on his cell phone and returned to the council meeting."

"Yeah, I see," a colleague said. "It's not the same, but it's better."

End of report.
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Reader's Guide to Movies

Duncan Shepherd

The Best of Walt Disney's True Life Adventures

The posthumous production of the revered animator's work is a testament to his creative genius. Through a series of captivating stories, Disney brings to life the adventures of wildlife in their natural habitats, teaching valuable lessons about the importance of nature and the environment. This collection is a treat for both children and adults, offering a glimpse into the beauty and complexity of the natural world. (Old Cinema II)

Carolyn Kneale

Day for Night - France

A French-language film directed by François Truffaut, "Day for Night" is a behind-the-scenes look at the making of a movie. The film explores the challenges faced by a director (played by Truffaut himself) as he tries to keep his crew working efficiently and maintain the morale of the cast. The movie offers a fascinating insight into the film industry and the creative process. (Old Cinema II)

Carole Bergen, Art Garfunkel

"Cries and Whispers" - Sweden

A critically acclaimed film directed by Ingmar Bergman, "Cries and Whispers" explores the theme of mortality and the fear of death. The film follows a family living in a remote Swedish village as they care for a dying woman. Through the lens of their grieving, the film delves into the complexities of human emotions and the nature of faith. (Old Cinema II)

Beverly Hills

"The Big Sleep" - U.S.

A classic detective story adapted from the novel by Raymond Chandler, "The Big Sleep" stars Robert Mitchum and Lauren Bacall. The film follows private investigator Philip Marlowe as he investigates a murder case involving a wealthy businessman. The movie is known for its memorable performances and the atmospheric noir setting. (Old Cinema II)

Gisteine, Harald

"The Red Shoes" - U.K.

Based on the novel by5 Peter Darrell, "The Red Shoes" is a romantic musical drama that讲述了ćhe story of a young dancer who becomes an celebrity but struggles to maintain her identity. The film features the iconic song "The Red Shoes Waltz" and is a tribute to the power of art and passion. (Old Cinema II)

Conrad and Oomark

"Spirits of the Dead" - U.S.

A psychological thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock, "Spirits of the Dead" follows a man who returns to his childhood home after a long absence. The film explores themes of memory, loss, and the afterlife through a series of haunting events. (Old Cinema II)


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"The Elephant Man" - U.S.

A biographical film starring John Hurt and Anne Bancroft, "The Elephant Man" tells the story of Joseph Merrick, a man with a rare genetic condition that made him appear monstrous. The film explores the themes of acceptance, identity, and human rights. (Old Cinema II)

Laughter on the Park - U.K.

A British comedy directed by Carol Reed, "Laughter on the Park" is a light-hearted tale of a group of friends who embark on a road trip to a famous national park. The film is known for its charming characters and the often-hilarious situations they encounter along the way. (Old Cinema II)

"Mystic Lake" - U.S.

A drama directed by Taylor Hackford, "Mystic Lake" tells the story of a group of childhood friends who are caught up in a tragic incident that occurred decades ago. The film explores themes of guilt, redemption, and the impact of the past on the present. (Old Cinema II)

"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" - Sweden

A crime thriller based on the novel by Stieg Larsson, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" follows a journalist and a hacker as they investigate a decades-old murder. The film is known for its intense narrative and the strong performances of its lead actors. (Old Cinema II)

"The Color Purple" - U.S.

A classic adaptation of the novel by Alice Walker, "The Color Purple" tells the story of Celie Johnson, a young African American woman who experiences a range of hardships. The film is celebrated for its powerful portrayal of the struggles of women and the importance of sisterhood. (Old Cinema II)

"The Godfather" - U.S.

A seminal gangster film directed by Francis Ford Coppola, "The Godfather" tells the story of the Corleone family, one of the most powerful criminal organizations in New York City. The film is known for its iconic performances and its exploration of power, family, and loyalty. (Old Cinema II)

"The Shawshank Redemption" - U.S.

A prison drama directed by Frank Darabont, "The Shawshank Redemption" is the story of Andy Dufresne, a banker who is wrongfully convicted of murder and sent to Shawshank State Penitentiary. The film is celebrated for its themes of hope, friendship, and redemption. (Old Cinema II)

"The Sound of Music" - U.S.

A musical and a personal favorite of many, "The Sound of Music" is based on the memoir of Maria von Trapp. The film tells the story of a Austrian family who live through the turmoil of World War II while maintaining a sense of love and optimism. (Old Cinema II)

"The Lion King" - U.S.

A Disney animated feature directed by Roger Allers and SHAUN ANDERSON, "The Lion King" is a modern retelling of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and tells the story of a lion cub named Simba, who is destined to be the king of the Pride Lands. The film is known for its catchy songs and its powerful message about the cycle of life. (Old Cinema II)