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## Cinderella man short answers

Boxing is seemingly the only form of hand-to-hand combat Hollywood consistently tries to take seriously. Maybe it's because boxing defines the American spirit. Like bullfighting, it's a controversial sport that simultaneously creates heroes amid great moments of human drama and pummels fighters' bodies and minds irreversibly into pulp in a modern form of gladiatorial spectacle fueled by big money. Say what you will about the real world of boxing, but in the movies it's the human drama that delivers the knockout and such is the case with Ron Howard's finest film to date, *Cinderella Man* is a largely faithful biopic of Depression-era heavyweight champion Jim Braddock. What sets this film apart is its subject matter: Braddock was not only an underdog like Rocky Balboa, a fierce competitor like Jake La Motta, a champion of the people like Muhammad Ali, and someone who never gave up despite heavy odds, he was also a man of integrity who put his family before pride and the pursuit of success during one of the darkest periods in American history. It's a story that flies in defiance to modern thinking , which is dominated by the pursuit of material gain, self gratification and notoriety. Despite early success as a boxer and a record of having never been knocked out, several injuries including a broken right hand and their impact on his increasingly poor ring performances cause Braddock to lose his boxing license just as the stock market crashes in 1929 and the Great Depression begins. Unable to earn a living as a boxer in New Jersey, Braddock joins thousands of unemployed as he struggles to provide for his wife Mae and three children by daily looking for menial labor, grudgingly accepting government handouts and standing in breadlines. He even resorts to selling his boxing equipment and asking his old associates for help in paying his heating bill during the winter. But his manager Joe Gould never gives up on his old friend, and within a few years arranges to have Jim return to fill in for another boxer. Out of shape and forced to wear borrowed gear, Braddock still manages an upset victory that sets him on a course to fight the charismatic, yet brutal Max Baer for the heavyweight championship of the world. The majority of the film is not focused on Braddock's boxing matches, but rather on his struggles outside the ring during the Depression. Most of them reinforce his character. Such things as Braddock's insistence on returning his welfare income once he starts making money again almost seems like a Hollywood contrivance, but by all accounts this and other aspects of his upstanding character were true. This is what really makes the film great. Like Ali, we're dealing with an intriguing personality who is larger than life, although in a vastly different way. Braddock's not fighting for respect, or sparring any inner demons. Quite simply, he's fighting for milk for his kids. And like so many others, he's battling poverty, despair, and shame--the shadowy foes of the Depression threatening to swallow his family. "Let me take my punches in the ring," the film's Braddock tells his worried wife, Mae. "At least I know who's hitting me." Jim Braddock was dubbed the "Cinderella Man" for his rise from poverty to world boxing champion. For struggling right along with the rest of America during the Depression, only to make a historic comeback, he became an inspiration for many people at a time when hope was in short supply. It's a feel-good story about endurance, integrity and family values overcoming great odds. This may not be original or flashy, but it's a great story that deserved to be told and was done so extremely well. Here's something on the life and times of the real Jim Braddock: Q. How popular was boxing during the 1930s? A. It was huge--as popular as baseball, and maybe more so. Heavyweight champions were superstars, with a Michael Jordan-like fame. Fans by the tens of thousands thronged to see the big matches, with millions more avidly following via radio and the colorful stories of newspaper sportswriters. Q. How accurately is the Depression era shown? A. Watching a recreation of painful historical episodes isn't always fun. After all, the Depression was so depressing. But at the same time, historical films provide a time-capsule thrill of watching a long-past era spring to life. In brown and sepia tones, *Cinderella Man* perfectly captures the bleakness and the despair of the Depression--the squalor, the Hooverville shacks, the hollow eyes and grim faces. It's the next best thing to being there. On second thought, it's better. Q. Did Braddock actually fight with a broken hand? A. He did. More than once in fact, and it was the constant hand injuries that ended his career for the first time. Braddock's most celebrated qualities as a boxer were his tenacity, and his ability to fight through intense pain. He took pride in being knocked out only once in his long career, by Joe Louis, two years after the film's events. Q. Did the Braddock kids really get sent away? A. Yes, and for a longer time than shown in the film. His inability to pay the bills and keep the family together during the bitter winter of 1934 was the final straw that sent Jim to the relief agency, and in the film's most poignant moment, literally begging for help. Q. Did Jim only have two days' notice of his first comeback fight against Corn Griffin? And did he go into it without having eaten all day? A. The two days' notice is accurate. Braddock later said he would have fought on two hours' notice, so badly did he need the money. As for the growling stomach--it's a great moment in the film, but whether or not Jim actually tried to gulp down hash that his manager Joe Gould brought him minutes before the fight is unknown. But after the fight, he did say, "I did this on hash, Joe. Imagine what I could do on steak." Q. Did Braddock give back the money he had gotten while on relief? Isn't that a little too good to be true? A. It is, but happened nonetheless. Like many people, Braddock was intensely ashamed about the relief money he had received. With his fight earnings growing in 1935, Braddock was eager to pay it back. Sportswriters discovered the story just weeks before his fight against heavy weight champion Max Baer, and to Braddock's embarrassment, splashed the story everywhere. Yet it was this action, as well as Braddock's improbable soupline-to-heavyweight-contender story, which endeared him to millions. By the time of the fight, seemingly the entire country stood firmly in Braddock's corner, while betting--assuming they had money--on Baer. Q. Did Max Baer really act so badly towards Braddock before their fight? A. Poor Max Baer comes out here much worse than he really was. Every film needs a juicy villain, and fact-based films usually exaggerate the villainy of the token bad guy. Although Baer publicly disparaged Braddock as an unworthy opponent, he never taunted Braddock about killing men in the ring. In fact, the death of his opponent Frankie Campbell (in the newsreel clip shown in the film) haunted Baer throughout his life. Q. Did Mae beg her husband not to fight Baer? A. No. In reality, Mae shared Jim's thrill at his opportunity to fight for the heavyweight title, and of course, his delight in the substantial purse money he'd receive, win or lose. Yet Mae did worry constantly about potential injuries, and refused to watch Jim's matches in person. As a viewer, I can certainly relate. It was tough to watch Russell Crowe's mug getting so mauled. Boxing can be sadistic, and the film doesn't flinch from that aspect of the sport. -BY MARK POLLARD /December 7, 2005 For other uses, see Cinderella Man (disambiguation). 2005 film by Ron Howard Cinderella ManNorth American theatrical release posterDirected byRon HowardScreenplay by Cliff Hollingsworth Akiva Goldsman Story byCliff HollingsworthProduced by Ron Howard Penny Marshall Brian Grazer Starring Russell Crowe Renée Zellweger Paul Giamatti Craig Bierko Bruce McGill Paddy Considine CinematographySalvatore TotinoEdited by Daniel P. Hanley Mike Hill Music byThomas NewmanProductioncompanies Touchstone Pictures[1] Universal Pictures[1] Miramax Films Imagine Entertainment Parkway Productions Distributed by Universal Pictures (North America) Buena Vista International (International) Release date June 3, 2005 (2005-06-03) Running time144 minutesCountryUnited StatesLanguageEnglishBudget\$88 million[2]Box office\$108.5 million[2] Cinderella Man is a 2005 American biographical sports drama film directed by Ron Howard, titled after the nickname of world heavyweight boxing champion James J. Braddock and inspired by his life story. The film was produced by Howard, Penny Marshall, and Brian Grazer. Damon Runyon is credited for giving Braddock this nickname. Russell Crowe, Renée Zellweger and Paul Giamatti star. The film received generally positive reviews and grossed \$108 million against a budget of \$88 million. It received three Academy Award nominations, including Best Supporting Actor for Giamatti. Plot James J. Braddock is an Irish-American boxer from New Jersey, formerly a light heavyweight contender, who is forced to give up boxing after breaking his hand in the ring. This is both a relief and a burden to his wife, Mae. She cannot bring herself to watch the violence of his chosen profession, yet she knows they will not have enough income without his boxing. As the United States enters the Great Depression, Braddock does manual labor as a longshoreman to support his family, even with his injured hand. Unfortunately, he cannot get work every day. Thanks to a last-minute cancellation by another boxer, Braddock's longtime manager and friend, Joe Gould, offers him a chance to fill in for just one night and earn cash. The fight is against the number-two contender in the world, Corn Griffin. Braddock stuns the boxing experts and fans with a third-round knockout of his formidable opponent. He believes that while his right hand was broken, he became more proficient with his left hand, improving his in-ring ability. Despite Mae's objections, Braddock takes up Gould's offer to return to the ring. Mae resents this attempt by Gould to profit from her husband's dangerous livelihood, until she discovers that Gould and his wife also have been devastated by hard times. With a shot at the heavyweight championship held by Max Baer a possibility, Braddock continues to win. Out of a sense of pride, he uses a portion of his prize money to pay back money to the government given to him while unemployed. When his rags to riches story gets out, the sportswriter Damon Runyon dubs him "The Cinderella Man", and before long Braddock comes to represent the hopes and aspirations of the American public struggling with the Depression. After wins against John Henry Lewis and Art Lasky, a title fight against Baer comes his way. Braddock is a 10-to-1 underdog. Mae is terrified because Baer, the champ, is (as portrayed in this highly fictionalized characterization) a vicious man who reportedly has killed at least two men in the ring. He is so destructive that the fight's promoter, James Johnston, forces both Braddock and Gould to watch a film of Baer in action, just so he can maintain later that he warned them what Braddock was up against. Braddock demonstrates no fear. The arrogant Baer attempts to intimidate him, even taunting Mae in public that her man might not survive. When he says this, she becomes so angry that she throws a drink at him. She is unable to attend the fight at the Madison Square Garden Bowl or even to listen to it on the radio. On June 13, 1935, in one of the greatest upsets in boxing history, Braddock defeats the seemingly invincible Baer to become the heavyweight champion of the world. An epilogue reveals that Braddock would lose his title to Joe Louis and later worked on the building of the Verrazano Bridge, owning and operating heavy machinery on the docks where he worked during the Depression, and that he and Mae used his boxing income to buy a house, where they spent the rest of their lives. Cast Russell Crowe as James J. Braddock Renée Zellweger as Mae Braddock Paul Giamatti as Joe Gould Bruce McGill as James Johnston Craig Bierko as Max Baer Paddy Considine as Mike Wilson David Huband as Ford Bond Connor Price as Jay Braddock Ariel Waller as Rosemarie "Rosy" Braddock Patrick Louis as Howard Braddock Rosemarie DeWitt as Sara Wilson Linda Kash as Mrs. Gould Nicholas Campbell as Sporty Lewis Gene Pyrz as Jake Chuck Shamata as Father Roddick Ron Canada as Joe Jeanette Alicia Johnston as Alice Troy Ross as John Henry Lewis Mark Simmons as Art Lasky Art Binkowski as Corn Griffin David Litzinger as Abe Feldman Matthew G. Taylor as Primo Carnera Rance Howard as Announcer Al Fazin Robert Norman Smith as reporter Angelo Dundee as boxing trainer Production During filming in Toronto, several areas were redressed to resemble 1930s New York. The Richmond Street side of The Bay's Queen Street store was redressed as Madison Square Garden, complete with fake store fronts and period stop lights. A stretch of Queen Street East between Broadview and Carlaw was also made up to appear to be from the 1930s and dozens of period cars were parked along the road. Maple Leaf Gardens was used for all the fight scenes, and many scenes were filmed in the Distillery District. Filming also took place in Hamilton, Ontario at the harbour for the dock workers' scene.[3] The main apartment was shot north of St. Clair Avenue on Lauder Avenue on the west side. An awning was put up for a dress shop, later turned into a real coffee shop. The Toronto Transit Commission's historic Peter Witt streetcar and two more cars from the nearby Halton County Radial Railway were used for the filming, travelling on Toronto's existing streetcar tracks. Release In a campaign to boost ticket sales after the film's low opening, AMC Theatres advertised on June 24, 2005 that in 30 markets (about 150 theaters nationwide), it would offer a refund to any ticket-buyer dissatisfied with the film.[4] The advertisement, published in The New York Times and other papers and on internet film sites, read, "AMC believes Cinderella Man is one of the finest motion pictures of the year! We believe so strongly that you'll enjoy Cinderella Man we're offering a Money Back Guarantee." The promotion moderately increased box office revenue for a short period, while at least 50 patrons demanded refunds. Following suit, Cinemark Theatres also offered a money-back guarantee in 25 markets that did not compete with AMC Theaters. AMC had last employed such a strategy (in limited markets) for the 1988 release of Mystic Pizza,[5] while 20th Century Fox had unsuccessfully tried a similar ploy for its 1994 remake of Miracle on 34th Street. Reception Critical response Rotten Tomatoes gave it an approval rating of 80% based on reviews from 214 critics with an average score of 7.4/10. Its consensus states, "With grittiness and an evocative sense of time and place, Cinderella Man is a powerful underdog story. And Ron Howard and Russell Crowe prove to be a solid combination."[6] Metacritic gives the film a score of 69 out of 100, based on reviews from 40 critics.[7] It received an A+ rating from CinemaScore.[8] The film earned \$61 million at the US box office and \$108 million worldwide.[2] Accolades Academy Awards Best Supporting Actor (Paul Giamatti) (Nominated) Best Film Editing (Daniel P. Hanley, Mike Hill) (Nominated) Best Makeup (David LeRoy Anderson, Lance Anderson) (Nominated) BAFTA Film Awards Best Original Screenplay (Cliff Hollingsworth, Akiva Goldsman) (Nominated) Critics' Choice Movie Awards Best Actor (Russell Crowe) (Nominated) Best Supporting Actor (Paul Giamatti) (Won) Best Director (Ron Howard) (Nominated) Best Film (Nominated) Golden Globe Awards Best Actor – Motion Picture Drama (Russell Crowe) (Nominated) Best Supporting Actor – Motion Picture (Paul Giamatti) (Nominated) Outstanding Supporting Actor – Motion Picture (Russell Crowe) (Nominated) Outstanding Supporting Actor – Motion Picture (Paul Giamatti) (Won) Legacy Main article: Russell Crowe's jockstrap In April 2018, Crowe auctioned off as part of his "divorce auction" a number of props he owned which were used by him in his various films, including a jockstrap, pair of shorts and robe which were worn by Crowe in Cinderella Man. The items from the film as well as the other items on auction were bought by the HBO television show Last Week Tonight with John Oliver, with the jockstrap having sold for \$7,000. The items purchased were then donated to the last operating Blockbuster Video store in Alaska.[9] The jockstrap was reported missing; however, in the final episode of season 5 of Last Week Tonight, John Oliver revealed that it had been taken back and showed a short heist parody filmed with it. See also List of boxing films References ^ a b "Cinderella Man (35mm)". Australia Classification Board. Retrieved July 19, 2021. ^ a b c "Cinderella Man (2005)". Box Office Mojo. Retrieved June 5, 2010. ^ "Internet Movie Database - List of Films shot in Hamilton, Ontario". Archived from the original on December 4, 2012. Retrieved January 29, 2008. ^ Stack, Tim (July 1, 2005). 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