Wonderstruck Movie Review in Museum - by Jim

“Wonderstruck” starts with a boy, Ben (Oakes Fegley), having a nightmare with grey wolves chasing him in the woods near Minneapolis. 1977. Ben becomes deaf in the early part of the movie. He goes to NY to find his Father.

It also about a deaf girl, Rose (Millicent Simmonds), growing up in 1927 in a wealthy family. She goes to NY to find her runaway mother who is also her favorite actress.

The movie, based on a book by Brian Selznick, who writes and illustrates this book. Based on the 2 kids, the book, the story of the boy is written in words. The story of the deaf girl is told in drawings. In the movie, taking the consideration that there are 50 years between the 2 eras, the film of the boy is in color and is spoken. The film of the girl is in B+W and is silent, but is accompanied by music.

The book from Ben’s father is “Cabinets of Wonder, Wonderstruck”. The book was published by the American Museum of Natural History and purchased from a bookstore, Kinkaid Books in NYC. Ben reads a passage from the book, “A curator’s job is an important one, for it is the curator who decides what belongs in the museum. The curator then must decide exactly how the objects will be displayed. In a way anyone who collects things in the privacy of his own home is a curator. Simply choosing how to display your things, deciding what pictures to hang where, and in which order your books belong, places you in the same category as a museum curator.”

Ben wondered if he was a curator. He had never stopped to think about why he collected things. It was just something he’d always liked to do. He thought about his wood box. Maybe it was a museum box. Maybe he was making a museum about Gunflint Lake. The book is the reason he goes to NYC.

In NYC, many of the scenes are at the American Museum of Natural History for both Ben and Rose. Later, the movie venue is at the Queen’s Museum, which houses the NYC Panorama.

Shown at SFMOMA, Phyllis Wattis Theater: Joint Venture: SFMOMA + SFFilms

American Museum of Natural History
https://www.amnh.org/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4eM-OuheDU

Queens Museum, Panorama:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqPpAFk8pHQ

SFPL Public Knowledge, Take Part
https://www.sfmoma.org/exhibition/public-knowledge-take-part/

TakePart SF
https://publicknowledge.sfmoma.org/take-part/

YouTube Videos about “Wonderstruck”
“Wonderstruck” Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1vV0oorclg&t=23s

Check out his “Wonderstruck” Cannes news conference: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_L9lqeLaBY

Scenes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=050X_pskvY

Kids Roundtable: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZS2ghAcCOA

Selznick + Simmons Q+A: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1in0Y4v1VUg

Wonderstruck Museum Scenes:
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=wonderstruck+museum+scenes

Academic Conversations: Wonderstruck: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duNSLwoymU4