

Waking Ned Devine

(PG, Adult themes)

IMDB: <http://imdb.com/title/tt0166396/>

Directed by

Kirk Jones

Writing credits

Kirk Jones (written by)

Cast overview, first billed only:

Ian Bannen
David Kelly
Fionnula Flanagan
Susan Lynch
James Nesbitt
Paul Vaughan
Adrian Robinson

Also Known As:

À la santé de Ned (France) (DVD title)
Vieilles canailles (France)
Waking Ned Devine (USA)

Runtime: 91 min / Argentina:92 min
Country: Ireland / UK / France / USA
Language: English / Latin / Gaelic
Color: Color (Technicolor)

Synopsis

In the game of luck, it's not who wins or loses - it's who collects that counts! What if someone in your town won the lottery? What if he were dead? And all you had to do to claim it was to convince everyone - to lie! (blurb from the video cover)

Someone in the small town of Tullymore in Ireland (population 52 people) has won the lottery, but no-one knows the winner. That is, until they discover old Ned Devine dead - with a smile on his face and the lottery ticket still in his hand. How can the townsfolk claim the money and convince the lottery's agent that Ned Devine is alive and well, and ready to collect nearly seven million pounds?

Friendship

Tullymore is a small town with its share of intrigue, suspicion, competition and distrust. When Jackie starts buying drinks for Pig Finn and giving him presents, the latter is suspicious. But Jackie's aim is to find out who the winner is, and then make sure 'we're best friends' to snare a share of the jackpot. Compare this to Jackie's tribute to his friend Michael O'Sullivan in the funeral scene, which demonstrates the nature of their friendship. Discuss what might define real and enduring friendship.

Chicken and whisky

Jackie and Annie throw a party for all their 'friends' (limited to those who regularly purchase lottery tickets), in the hope that they can identify the winner. It's a stark contrast to the 'great feast' (Matthew 22:1-10) and the sheer generosity of God (represented by the lavishness of the woman pouring perfume on Jesus). Discuss.

The church

The priest says he is 'working for Jesus' and that his payment is of a spiritual kind. The boy declares he could never work for no pay for someone he'd never met. Discuss.

What if....?

Jackie declares he would take what he needed and treat my friends with the rest. What would you do with the winnings? Discuss.

Lies and deception

Jackie and the townsfolk commit a crime - fraud - in order to claim the prize. The (visiting) priest is aware of the scheme but doesn't speak out against it. Lizzie refuses to participate in the scheme. Her motives are far from pure - she stands to gain 10% of the prize if she reports the fraud, a far greater reward than sharing the prize with all the others in the town. She is seen as 'wicked' and meets an untimely end before she can make the phone call which will expose the fraud. Can lies and deception, for the common good, be justified? (Read Rahab's story in Joshua 2. As the mother of Boaz, she is remembered in Matthew's genealogy. And yet she told blatant lies to protect Joshua's men!) Discuss.

© Sandy Boyce, People in Mission Coordinator (an activity of Uniting International Mission, an agency of the Uniting Church in Australia) <http://www.uim.uca.org.au/peopleinmission>

Permission given to copy the discussion sheet for group use.