

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

COMPANION BOOKLET

Damaris
MEDIA.com

Edie

SHEILA HANCOCK
KEVIN GUTHRIE

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

CAPE WRATH FILMS PRESENTS A SIMON HUNTER FILM SHEILA HANCOCK KEVIN GUTHRIE WENDY MORGAN AMY MANSON PAUL BRANNIGAN
CASTING DIRECTOR JEREMY ZIMMERMANN MUSIC COMPOSED & CONDUCTED BY DEBBIE WISEMAN COSTUME DESIGNER GEORGINA NAPIER PRODUCTION DESIGNER CHRIS RICHMOND
SOUND DESIGNER SEBASTIAN MORSE VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR JEAN-MICHEL BOUBLIL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AUGUST JAKOBSSON IKS
EDITED BY OLLY STOTHERT CO PRODUCER TIM DENNISON PRODUCER MARK STOTHERT SCREENPLAY BY ELIZABETH O'HALLORAN DIRECTED BY SIMON HUNTER
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IN CINEMAS MAY 25TH



INTRODUCTION

This free resource, provided by Damaris Media and Mothers' Union, is here to help groups and individuals think through the issues raised in **Edie** (in UK cinemas from 25th May 2018). In this guide you will find:

- Background information about the film
- Film discussion questions
- 'From Regret to Renewal': Activities and questions for a small group session

Before you start, read through the guide to make sure you have everything you need.
Please feel free to use the sections you think are most appropriate for your group.

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Edith Moore (Sheila Hancock), known as Edie, is a bitter, surly woman in her eighties. In the months following her husband's death, her daughter Nancy (Wendy Morgan) plans for her to move to a retirement home - and Edie feels like it is the beginning of the end. It seems she will die still carrying all the regrets of her past.

One regret haunts her most of all. When Edie was younger, her father planned a climbing trip for them in the Scottish Highlands. She yearned to go, but her husband, a difficult and controlling man, made her stay at home. Now nearly thirty years later, with nothing left to lose, Edie decides to make the trip alone.

As Mt Suilven looms ahead, she realises how daunting the climb will be. She hires Jonny (Kevin Guthrie), a local man, to help her prepare - sparking an unexpected friendship, and an adventure which will change her life.



ABOUT THE STARS

Sheila Hancock

Sheila's extensive career spans theatre, radio, television and film, and she is also now enjoying a career as a writer and features presenter. She has been honoured with two Lifetime Achievement Awards: Women in Film and Television, and The Lady Ratlings as well as an OBE for services to drama in 1974, with a CBE following in 2011.

Sheila's previous work in films ranges from *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, *Love and Death on Long Island* and *Yes, to Carry on Cleo* and *3 Men and a Little Lady*. Sheila was nominated for a BAFTA for her performances in *The Russian Bride* and the BBC series *Bedtime*. Other television work includes *Before I Call You In*, *Delicious*, *Endeavour*, *New Tricks*, *Hustle*, *The Catherine Tate Show*, *Nellie and Melba*, *Moving On*, *Just Henry* and *After Thomas*, as well as presenting a number of documentary features.

Sheila's work as an author includes *The Two of Us* (Author of the Year Award); its follow up *Just Me*; *Ramblings of an Actress*, and most recently her debut novel *Miss Carter's War*.

Kevin Guthrie

Kevin is a Scottish actor. Alongside theatre work, including a role in 2013's *Macbeth* starring James McAvoy at Trafalgar Studios, Kevin had a starring role in 2013's musical film *Sunshine on Leith*. In 2015 he acted in Robert Carlyle's directorial debut *The Legend of Barney Thomson* and in Terence Davies's adaptation of the novel *Sunset Song*, opposite Agyness Deyn.

In 2016 Kevin starred in Gillies MacKinnon's remake of the 1949 Ealing Studios classic *Whisky Galore!* and in 2017 he appeared in Christopher Nolan's war epic *Dunkirk*.



THE MAKING OF EDIE: AN INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR SIMON HUNTER

What was it like working with Sheila Hancock and Kevin Guthrie?

Hard work but in a good way. They are both so bright, smart and intuitive. Kevin really is a fine actor: what I love about him is that he's playing this young man trying to make sense of the world and his place in it, but we glimpse the hidden little boy every now and then. Sheila was incredibly disciplined and always brought something new to each scene, particularly in the visual sequences at the end. You can't just walk through the wilderness: we need to know, what are you thinking? What has just happened? What memories does this invoke? Sheila was just fantastic with these scenes and added so much.

Did Sheila actually climb the mountain?

At the very start of the writing process I knew we had to find an actress of enormous talent but also someone who could actually climb the mountain that was at the centre of our tale. I wanted to be 100% authentic, but how would I get an actress of around 83 up a mountain in Sutherland?

Sheila was determined, I could see it in her eyes when I first met her. The moment she decided to climb the mountain she went straight into training, she went to the gym, she had special nordic walking training. Every time I spoke to her she proclaimed 'I've been training!' I knew she would do it, she had made up her mind. It was an incredible thing to witness. I don't imagine there are many actresses of 83 anywhere in the world who'd have climbed all that way with us.

Did climbing for real help make her performance special?

I am sure it did. How could it not? I think the final shots of Sheila in the film were helped tremendously by the climb. I was keen to avoid a happy bouncy end, it was more a reflective, poignant moment, Edie has done what she came for and this is possibly the most special moment at the tail end of an unfulfilled life.

What do you hope that audiences will take from *Edie*?

There is something inspirational about the film, something about setting your mind to something and seeing it through. It's timeless. I think it will remind people about their parents and their hopes and dreams, ambitions achieved or not.

Life doesn't always deliver what you hope for when you're young. In that sense it's a bittersweet tale, but I believe a very accessible one.



BEFORE THE FILM

Watch the trailer for **Edie** with your group to get them excited about your forthcoming cinema trip.

1. What is your impression of the film's characters and its story?
2. How do you react to the idea of an older woman as the film's central character?
3. What are you most looking forward to about the cinema trip?

You could share the trailer on social media to encourage others to join your trip using the hashtag **#ediefilm** - see www.ediefilm.co.uk/videos/

FILM DISCUSSION

The first thing we all like to do when we leave the cinema is talk about the film! This is your chance to chat together as a group about your reactions to **Edie** as a cinematic experience before digging deeper into the themes.

You might want to watch the trailer together to refresh your memories before you begin talking.

1. What was your initial reaction to the film, and why? What were you expecting when you went in?
2. How did you feel about the two central performances from Sheila Hancock and Kevin Guthrie? Which of their scenes together was your favourite?
3. What did the natural beauty of the setting add to your experience of **Edie**? How did the film's locations help to tell the story?
4. What sort of emotional journey did the film take you on? What emotions were you left with when the credits rolled?



QUESTIONS: FROM REGRET TO RENEWAL

Use these questions as discussion starters for your group.

1. How did you react to Edie when we were first introduced to her? What are her biggest regrets, and how does she feel about the future? Could you empathise with any aspects of her situation?
2. Edie describes being a wife and mother as a 'duty' which brought her no joy. How has her life been shaped by social pressures, particularly around the role of women? What could her life have looked like if she'd been empowered to make different choices?
3. What makes Edie decide to go to Scotland, and what is she hoping to gain from her journey? Have you ever taken on a difficult or unusual challenge? What motivated you to do it?
4. Why does Edie struggle to accept help from Jonny? What makes independence so important to her? Is it possible to have meaningful independence whilst also depending on our family, friends and community?
5. How does Edie's friendship with Jonny develop over the course of the story? What are they able to teach each other? How did you feel about this portrayal of friendship across divides of age and life experience?
6. How has Edie changed by the end of the film? What has given her this new lease of life and helped her to start healing? What do you imagine will happen to her after the credits roll?
7. Is it possible to live a life without regrets, and if so, how? How can we make the most of the time and opportunities we have? How might faith in God affect our perspective on regret - and on the possibility of renewal?



REFLECT

During a time of quiet at the end of your meeting, write down a regret or disappointment from your past which has been transformed into hope for the future. How did God help to bring renewal into your life? Which people, experiences or events helped you to move on? Did you have a 'mountaintop experience', like Edie, or was it a gradual process?

Alternatively you could write down a regret in your life which you still need to find healing for. How might you open yourself up to receive help from God and others?

Keep hold of the paper and use it in your personal times of thanksgiving or prayer over the coming weeks.

If you would like to, share your reflections with the rest of the group. The following Bible verses might be helpful to read together: Isaiah 40:30-31, Isaiah 43:18-19, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Philipians 3:13-14, Romans 5:1-5, Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 5:17.

PRAY



You may wish to sum up your meeting using this suggested prayer, or similar.

Dear God, thank you that whatever disappointments we may have encountered in our lives, this doesn't have to be the end of the story. When the past weighs us down, help us to remember that you are a God of second chances and fresh beginnings. May we be open to receiving your grace as we set off on the new adventures you have in store. Amen.



Mothers' Union was established in 1876. From the outset it recognised that strong relationships and the role of family, however defined, are crucial in building healthy communities. It aims to show Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide, through the promotion of stable marriage and family life.

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