

***The Finest Hours* Review**

- Emma Szalewicz

The drama film, *The Finest Hours* directed by Craig Gillespie, hit theatres in early February of 2016. The cast includes Chris Pine as Bernie Webber, Holliday Grainger as Miriam Webber, Ben Foster as Richard, Casey Affleck as Ray, Eric Bana as Daniel, Graham McTavish as Frank, Abraham Benrubi as George, Keiynan Lonsdale as Eldon and many more great actors and actresses. The film has an IMDb rating of 7.1 out of 10. It also has a Rotten Tomatoes rating of 61%, saying, “Old-fashioned to a fault, *The Finest Hours* will satisfy those seeking a traditional rescue drama - but may leave more adventurous viewers wanting more.” Metacritic rates it slightly higher at 6.8 out of 10. *The Finest Hours* also won the Heartland Film “Truly Moving Picture Award.” It is a great date night movie for adults and teenagers; I highly recommend the film, although it is rated PG-13 and may be scary for younger kids.

The Finest Hours is a film based on real life about one of the most horrible storms in New England’s history. This storm took place in Chatham, Massachusetts, not too far from Marblehead. According to history, “In February of 1952, one of the worst storms to ever hit the East Coast struck New England, damaging an oil tanker [*The Pendleton*] off the coast of Cape Cod and literally ripping it in half. On a small lifeboat, faced with frigid temperatures and 70-foot high waves, four members of the Coast Guard set out to rescue the more than 30 stranded sailors trapped aboard the rapidly-sinking vessel.” It is action-packed, with a touch of romance. *The Finest Hours* was filmed in the Massachusetts towns of Quincy, Norwell, Cohasset, and Chatham. The street scenes were filmed in Marshfield, Massachusetts and the bridge scenes were filmed at the Powder Point Bridge in Duxbury, Massachusetts.

Because this film is based on a true story, there are still many connections that this tragic event has with the U.S. today. The original Coast Guard lifeboat used to rescue *The Pendleton* still exists. It is located at Rock Harbor in Orleans, Massachusetts. Also, in 2011, the United States Coast Guard named its first 153 foot fast-response cutter after Bernie Webber.

The Finest Hours is definitely worth both your time and money. People who like action films with romance and drama thrown in will love it. If there are any *Titanic* lovers out there, then this is definitely for you as well. *The Finest Hours* is a well made production.