Good Vibrations

Ireland, UK | 2012 | Cert. 15 | 98 mins
Directors: Lisa Barros D’Sa, Glenn Leyburn

Against the backdrop of The Troubles, idealistic music fanatic Terri Hooley dreams of uniting Belfast’s people through a new record shop in one of its most dangerous streets. Though his counter-culture sensibilities initially struggle to find an audience in 1970s Northern Ireland, he’s soon championing local talent in this feel-good love letter to the country’s proud punk scene.

You will like this film if you liked

Sing Street (2016, 12)

You will like this film if you liked

Vi är bäst! (We are the Best!) (2013, 15)

Talk about it

Have you heard about The Troubles in Northern Ireland previously? What do you know about this period?

How much do you know of the punk scene? Conduct research into the characteristics of punk music. Find out where the title of Good Vibrations comes from.

Discussion points

• How did the film make you feel throughout? How did it achieve this? Which elements of the film created this effect?
• In what ways does the film convey to the viewer that it is set in the 1970s? Are there any clues that aren’t related to music or politics?
• How would you characterise the film’s politics? Do the filmmakers take a stand on the issues? What evidence do you have for your answer?
• Terri’s personal life appears to come secondary to his passion for music. Do you agree with this statement? How did this affect his marriage, finances and health?
• Think about the scenes which featured musical performances. How did the filmmakers create a “live” atmosphere through the sound, cinematography and editing?

Write about it

Bring your ideas together in a review and share it on our Into Film clubs’ website. You could include a summary of the story, mention other films that it’s similar to, describe what you particularly liked or disliked and give it your star rating.

Extension Activities

Research a musical era of your choice. Which features define the scene and why? Think about the contributing issues of the day, such as fashion, arts and politics. Write about the scene – including the genre and style of music – and present your findings to the group.