



CINEMA *Shepherd*

with the



Viewing Guide - Shawshank Redemption

SYNOPSIS

After the murder of his wife, hotshot banker Andrew Dufresne is sent to Shawshank Prison, where the usual unpleasantness occurs. Over the years, he retains hope and eventually gains the respect of his fellow inmates, especially longtime convict "Red" Redding, a black marketeer, and becomes influential within the prison. Eventually, Andrew achieves his ends on his own terms.

CAST

Tim Robbins..... Andy Dufresne
Morgan Freeman..... Ellis Boyd "Red" Redding
Bob Gunton..... Warden Norton
James Whitmore..... Brooks Hatlen

TRIVIA

- The role of Tommy Williams was intended for Brad Pitt.
- In Stephen King's original story, Red was written as an Irishman. In the movie, they left the line, "Maybe it's 'cause I'm Irish", in as a joke, even after they had cast Morgan Freeman as Red.
- The Rita Hayworth movie the prisoners are watching is Gilda (1946).
- After the film gained popularity, Ted Turner sold the television rights to TNT, his own network, for much lower than normal for such a big film. Because it is so inexpensive to show, the film is broadcast on TNT extremely often.
- Stephen King has said that his original novella, which the film very faithfully adapts, was a culmination of all the memories he had from watching prison movies when he was a child.
- The role of Andy Dufresne was originally offered to Tom Hanks, who couldn't accept due to scheduling conflicts with Forrest Gump (1994). Hanks did, however, work on Frank Darabont's next film, The Green Mile (1999). Kevin Costner turned down the role of Andy Dufresne, a decision he strongly regretted later on.
- The opera song that Andy Dufresne plays over the loud speakers is Canzonetta sull'aria from Mozart's Marriage of Figaro.
- In 2007, the American Film Institute ranked this as the #72 Greatest Movie of All Time. It was the first inclusion of this film on the list.

"Hold fast to hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul."
Heb. 6:18-19

QUOTES

Red: [to Andy] Let me tell you something my friend. **Hope** is a dangerous thing. Hope can drive a man insane.

Andy Dufresne: Not me. I didn't shoot my wife, and I didn't shoot her lover. Whatever mistakes I made, I've paid for them and then some. That hotel, that boat... I don't think that's too much to ask.

Red: I don't think you oughta be doin' this to yourself, Andy. This is just S***ty pipe dreams. I mean Mexico is way the hell down there and you're in here, and that's the way it is.

Andy Dufresne: Yeah, right, that's the way it is. It's down there and I'm in here. I guess it comes down to a simple choice, really. Get busy living, or get busy dying.

Red: These walls are funny. First you hate 'em, then you get used to 'em. Enough time passes, you get so you depend on them. That's institutionalized.

Andy Dufresne: [in letter to Red] Remember Red, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever.

Red: [narrating] I find I'm so excited, I can barely sit still or hold a thought in my head. I think it's the excitement only a free man can feel, a free man at the start of a long journey whose conclusion is uncertain. I hope I can make it across the border. I hope to see my friend and shake his hand. I hope the Pacific is as blue as it has been in my dreams. I hope.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did you think about The Shawshank Redemption?

Where does Andy find hope? Where does Red find hope?

Why does Brooks despair?

What does The Shawshank Redemption teach about hope?

The original title of the film was Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption. Is this a better title? What exactly is redemption?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes hope as “a theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promise and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.” In what ways is the hope that is displayed in this film Christian hope?

The last scene in the film is in a place called Zihuatenejo. In the native language, this name means “place of the women.” Does this have any significance?