St. Monica Film Club

Background

Martin Scorsese's 2011 film *Hugo,* based on a beloved children's book, tells the story of an orphan boy who lives in a Paris train station, winding the clocks, as he struggles to repair a damaged old automaton (think music box and robot combined). Through a friendship with a little girl, Isabelle, and her jaded grandfather, Hugo finds his true purpose and helps others discover or rediscover their own. The film's production design, music and cinematography create a mystical world within a city depot.

Cast & Crew

Hugo Cabret… Asa Butterfield
Isabelle… Chloe Grace Moretz
Georges Melies.. Ben Kingsley
Station Master… Sacha Baron Cohen
Uncle Claude…Ray Winstone
Lisette… Emily Mortimer
Mama Jeanne.. Helen McCrory
Monsieur Labisse… Christopher Lee

Producer… Martin Scorsese, Graham King, Tim Headington, Johnny Depp.
Director… Martin Scorsese
Writers… Book by Brian Selznick, Screenplay by John Logan
Cinematographer…Robert Richardson
Editor… Thelma Schoonmaker
Composer- Howard Shore
Production Design… Dante Ferretti
Sound Mixing…Tom Fleischman, John Migdley
Sound Editing… Philip Stockton, Eugene

Trivia

Hugo was nominated for 11 Academy Awards. It won for Cinematography, Sound Mixing, Sound Editing, Visual Effects, and Art Direction.
* The film was shot and shown in 3D.
*Scorsese learned about the book from his young daughter, Francesca, who was a big fan.

The film is available on YouTube, Vudu, Amazon Prime, I-Tunes and other streaming services also on DVD.

For Reflection

1. What was your response to the story and filmmaking?

2. What were your impressions of the sound and music in the film? How did they help imbue the film with both a sense of realism and also of mystery?

3. Hugo was driven to fix things, to restore them to their purpose? How was Hugo restored? How did the brokenness of the other characters keep them from their purpose? What helped "fix" them?

4. Have you ever felt broken or out of touch with your purpose? What helped reconnect you?

I'd imagine the whole world was one big machine. Machines never come with any extra parts, you know. They always come with the exact amount they need. So I figured, if the entire world was one big machine, I couldn't be an extra part. I had to be here for some reason. And that means you have to be here for some reason, too.

Hugo Cabret in *Hugo*

For More Information: