



Inside Movies: He Named Me Malala

An inspirational story of survival and triumph

By Jim Bryson

Even with all the Hollywood entertainment films that we have available in our local library we also have quite a robust collection of documentary films. This month I watched *He Named Me Malala* (2015) and was very taken by the characters. I was also reminded of the value and importance of childhood education.

The story of this film follows the amazing life of Pakistani teenager Malala Yousafzai. At the time of the telling Malala is 17 and is living in England with her father, mother and two brothers. The reason for their separation from their home country was caused by the political activism of both Malala and her father Ziauddin Yousafzai who were both active in promoting education in the Swat Valley of northern Pakistan, particularly education for girls.

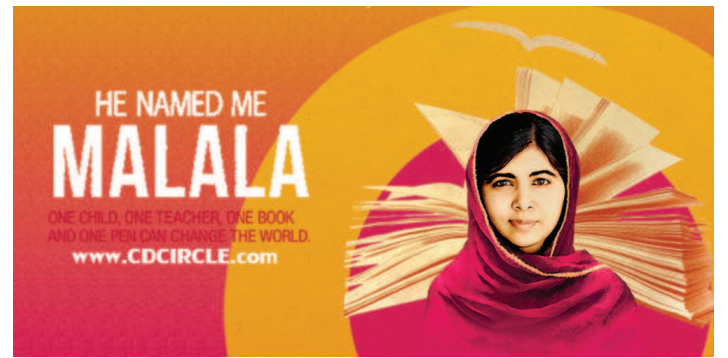
Because of her activism, the Pakistani Taliban attacked Malala, shooting her in the face in an attempt to silence her. The plan backfired, and now Malala is a

world renowned international education activist. In 2014 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work; at 17 years old she was the youngest ever Nobel Prize laureate.

This film really works for several reasons. The first is Malala, herself, who is an incredibly engaging young woman and a very polished communicator. Throughout the movie Malala tells her own story, as well as her father's. There are quite a few scenes showing her with her father, her mother, and her brothers and in all these scenes Malala is very much a real girl. She is funny and very intelligent and a real pleasure to spend time with.

This film is directed by Davis Guggenheim, director of other excellent documentary films such as *Waiting for Superman* (2010) and, more controversially, *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006). His previous work experience centered on the small screen of television shows, but *He Named Me Malala* has all the feel of a highly cinematic production. The story itself is based on a book written by Malala herself, *I am Malala*.

Throughout my viewing of this movie I felt immense gratitude that my own daughter does not



have to face the same fight in order to get educated. It seems that we should all appreciate the opportunities available to our children in both our community and our country. The girls of the Swat Valley are being killed and maimed for the very right to learn to read. I have a deep hope for the children of our community, knowing that they will never have to face such a threat for such a basic right.

This film and many other great documentary stories can be found at our local library. Join me every month as I look at another of the great titles available to one and all.



Get Rhythm Events at the Vernonia Library

The Vernonia Library recently hosted two events for young children as part of their Get Rhythm at the Library series during the month of April.

On April 4 Andy Ferguson presented Red Yard: Folk-songs and Puppetry for Families (left).

On April 14 Oregon Symphony Storytime featured Gordon Rencher, percussionist with the Oregon Symphony, who explained some of the many in-

struments he uses in his work, and also accompanied Vernonia Library Director Shannon Romtvedt as she read stories (right). Following the presentation, children were allowed to play some of the drums and other percussion instruments.

The Get Rhythm musical program series was sponsored by the Columbia County Cultural Coalition, supported by the Oregon Cultural Trust, The Vernonia Friends of the Library, the Vernonia Lions Club, and John and Randal Harvey.



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