

Sully: Miracle on the Hudson (12)

Seven members watched the excellent Sully... on Wednesday 8th April.

Starring Tom Hanks and Aaron Eckhart, and based on Chesley Sullenburg's novel, the film tells the story of the US Airlines flight that had to execute a water landing on the Hudson in 2009.

Soon after take off, the US Airlines flight suffered a bird strike that destroyed both engines on the Airbus A320. After trying to restart the engines, and calling Mayday, Sully took over control of the plane and tried to return to La Guardia airport. It very quickly became apparent that they would not reach La Guardia, or either of the alternatives, so he made the decision to attempt a water landing, which was executed successfully.

As soon as the aircraft was on the water, the evacuation started. With water entering the rear of the plane, everyone had to evacuate via the front doors and the over wing emergency exits. Several passengers and most of the crew, in their panic to escape, never donned their lifejackets. Sully was the last to leave the plane, along with his copilot Skyles.

Help was on hand very quickly, as a cross Hudson ferry was en route and able to aid, and the coastguard deployed very quickly. Despite some passengers entering the freezing water, all 155 passengers and crew survived.

Post the accident, the NTSB (National Travel Safety Board) conducted an investigation into the disaster. In the film, they were shown as almost hostile to Sully and Skyles, but in real life were much more supportive.

The film also touched on the emotional aspects of a private man being thrust into the limelight - something Sully didn't want.

Clint Eastwood's direction was very simple and effective. The device of telling the story primarily in flashback didn't lessen the suspense in any way as we were taken through a highly emotionally charged roller coaster of events.

As usual, Hanks was excellent, and Eckhart was also very good in his supporting role.