

**“Penguin Bloom” starring Naomi Watts, Griffin Murray-Johnston, Andrew Lincoln, 2020, NR, 95 minutes**

### **Major themes:**

- Family
- Water
- Injuries
- Memories
- Magpies
- Grief
- Guilt
- Authenticity
- Adjustment
- Emotions
- Honey
- Hope

### **Major characters:**

- Sam & Cameron Bloom, Snow / Noah, Roo / Rueben, Oli / Oliver
- Peng / Penguin
- Jan (Sam's Mum)
- Kylie (Sam's sister)
- Bron (friend)
- Gaye (kayaking instructor)

## Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

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### Background info:

- Penguin Bloom is a 2020 Australian drama film based on the book of the same name by Samantha Bloom, Cameron Bloom, and Bradley Trevor Greive.
- This film, based on a true story, was shot in the family's real home in the Northern Beaches of Sydney.
- "Penguin" was played by ten different magpies whose real names are Gerry, Clipper, Eugene, Maggie May, Mavis, Pew, Pip, Wendell, Swoop, and Hollywood.
- The Australian magpie is a black and white passerine bird native to Australia and southern New Guinea. Adults range from 14.5 to 17 inches in length, with black and white plumage, gold brown eyes and a solid wedge-shaped bluish-white and black bill. Males have pure white feathers on the back of the head; females have white blending to grey feathers on the back of the head. Their long legs allow them to walk, and they spend much of their time on the ground. Magpies are territorial and well adapted to human habitation. Magpies are known for their occasional aggressive behavior, swooping and attacking those who approach their nests. Research has shown that magpies can recognize at least 100 different people and less likely to swoop individuals they have befriended. The Australian magpie's complex, musical, warbling call is one of the most familiar Australian bird sounds. Their pitch may vary as much as four octaves, and they are able to mimic other birds, dogs, horses, emergency vehicle sounds, and even human speech.
- In a given year, about 3% of Australians travel to Thailand, a popular destination for both business and tourism, attracted by Thailand's natural and cultural beauty, beaches, and cuisine.

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### Scriptures:

Psalm 31:9-10 (NIV) – *“Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief. My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.”*

Genesis 1:27 (NRSV) – *“God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”*

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT) – *“God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.”*

Isaiah 58:9b-12 (NIV) – *“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”*

Proverbs 13:12 (NLT) – *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.”*

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT) – *“Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.”*

Matthew 6:26-27 (NLT) – *“Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?”*

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### Discussion points:

1. What helped Sam to move towards hope?
2. Discuss the significance of honey in this film.
3. Of all the losses experienced by Sam and her family, which one do you think Sam struggled with the most, and why? Cam? Noah? which one do you think you would struggle with most, and why?
4. Which instance of someone showing up for someone else in this film meant the most to you?
5. What makes a person who they are?
6. What would you say to someone who felt like their life wasn't working?
7. What glimpses of healing did you notice in this film?
8. What advice would you give to someone who is stuck in what-ifs, to help them to live their life?
9. "How are you?"