

Mary Poppins and The Sound of Music!

Ruth Barton Mar 3, 2015 2:03 PM

I choose both Mary Poppins and The Sound of Music because at this point they are indistinguishable for me. I saw Mary Poppins when it first came out and The Sound of Music later as an older child. They both star Julie Andrews, of course, and they are about love and beauty and gorgeous music and creativity and humor and caring for children. The filming and locations themselves were also really beautiful. They both start out with families whose fathers are quite strict and removed from the children and who are not at all demonstrative of the love they really do hold for their kids. As you probably all know, Mary Poppins and Maria both win the children, and then their fathers, over with their beautiful brand of magic, music, courage, and love. Mary and Maria are both nursemaids, or governesses, for the kids of the two families. They show the children in both families how to live in a real and beautiful world where dreams really can come true, especially the dream of a loving family. In Mary Poppins' case, the mother, who's a suffragette - ! - and especially the father come around and start spending quality, loving time with their kids and Mary Poppins, holding her open umbrella, lifts off into the magical sky from whence she came. In Maria's case, of course, she doesn't have to leave. The dad in this movie falls completely in love with her and they get married and truly do live mostly happily ever after, which we know because they were a real family who moved to Vermont!

I love these movies because they promise the reality of a loving family, with beauty and joy and kindness all around - firmness, too, but it's a kind firmness, with obvious love behind it. It was a dream coming true for me as a child as the films unwound on the screen before me. To this day when I watch these movies I am moved to tears by the beauty of the love the movies themselves convey, and how they show the beautiful possibilities that life has to offer.