**ABOUT THE MOVIE**

**Title of the Movie:** The Artist  
**Movie Rating:** PG-13  
**Length:** 1 hr 54 min

**Reviewer Names:** Tiffany C, Britney D, and Hye Won R  
**Available on:** HBO  
**Date reviewed:** July 30, 2021  
**Overall Rating** *(1-10, 10 = best):* 9

**Warning:** Spoilers ahead! CineWell reviews are intended to assess themes of mental health, violence and suicide for youth friendliness, authenticity and accuracy and may contain spoilers.

1. **What resonated with you about this film?**

   “The theme of the circle of life, and the movie’s portrayal of it was really beautiful.” – Britney
   “The movie highlighted the importance of connecting with parents about technological evolution and adapting to a new generation. The theme of adapting to change was powerful as the character started off hesitant to accept help. Seeing the portrayal of his progress and building amazing relationships along the way.” – Tiffany

2. **How did this relate to your own experiences or of someone you know about mental health?**

   “It is portrayed as a slow spiral down with descending to sitting at home and being secluded by not letting anyone in. There was also a loss of relationships and a struggle to be open to help, such as with the character’s wife and butler. It can be hard to accept help when you’ve been so high up in the chain and to admit that you’re not at your prime anymore. The film portrayed the power of humility and knowing when you need help.” – Tiffany
   “The main character tried everything he could but still couldn’t succeed. He learned to cope with failure and overcome it, with relationships being the key. The film displayed how to manage expectations and cope with not succeeding the way you wanted to, along with the importance of relationships to help you process difficult emotions.” – Britney
   “That slow spiral is relatable. When you’re in a downward slant, you often don’t realize it until it gets really overwhelming. It’s really important to realize you have these important people in your life willing to help.” – Hye Won
   “What a cinematic masterpiece at the end, when you start to hear sounds and music.” - Tiffany
   “Reminds me of dystopian sci-fi films.” – Britney
3. Did any of the characters remind you of someone you know in your own life?

“The film highlighted the struggle of adapting to change, trying something new, and understanding that some things can be out of our control—and how we can manage that. Seeing the main character overcome his difficulty with relationships made me reflect on all the people that have been in my life and have helped me” – Britney

“I’m thinking of how I’ve observed loved ones deal with a sense of helplessness in response to major changes during their immigration journey… There’s always an adjustment period. There is something beautiful about change—there’s a sense of community and support that comes out of it.” – Hye Won


SPOILER: “I felt uncomfortable in the scene with the gun and the main character’s contemplations. I wondered if the scene was going to show something violent or a scary climax, I didn’t love it. Happy ending though as the main character finally accepts help!” – Tiffany

“Agreed, I felt uncomfortable with the gun scene and at the beginning, and the portrayal of infidelity.” – Britney

“Throughout the movie, the excitement with relationships through evolving scenes was so engaging. I really liked the little romantic scenes and comedic scenes.” – Tiffany

5. How did you feel at the end of the movie?

“I felt really good. I was amazed with the movie progression and timelines. Even though the movie was silent it was still informative without any talking. I loved the music as the music itself played a large role. There were so many topics you can relate to and reflect on. With our current generation, we have movies that are big—like all blockbuster action films—so this silent film felt like a breath of fresh air. It was a nice reminder that movies are movies and not all have to be action filled, which felt like a reflection on how society progresses, such as with technology nowadays.” – Tiffany
6. Were there any inaccuracies/red flags in portraying mental health?

**SPOILER:** “There was an attempted suicide scene as well as some suicidal ideation.” – Tiffany

**SPOILER:** “Agreed, setting the room on fire felt extreme.” – Britney

**SPOILER:** “There was some over-dramatizing and glamorizing. A little bit dramatic. There was the coincidence where during the character’s contemplation with suicide, someone was coming to the rescue “right on time”—a coincidence that doesn’t often happen in real life.” – Tiffany

“The symptoms of depression, such as pushing people away and secluding oneself, were accurate.” – Britney

7. Has music played a different role in this silent movie? You usually don’t really notice music in current action films.” - Hye Won

“I love to watch movie soundtracks. Music influences my feelings and experiences of watching the movie. It was mind blowing to see how this movie affected me with just the music.” – Britney

“My brain was imagining how they would sound—like the dog barking—I can hear it in my mind. It was a total breath of fresh air by just paying attention to the music and seeing the actor’s detailed facial expressions. I enjoyed the moments of being immersed in the movie and not worrying about dialogue or reading captions. It was a nice break to have my mind focused on being in the moment with the actors.” – Britney
Does the film mention suicide? If yes, please complete the checklist below.

The guidelines below are adapted from Action Alliance’s National Recommendations for Depicting Suicide list. Research has shown that fictional portrayals of suicide can sometimes lead to increases in suicidal behavior or can help save lives if these established recommendations are followed.

**SAFE MESSAGING ON SUICIDE GUIDELINES CHECKLIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Does the film describe suicide in a way that is complex and influenced by a range of factors (rather than one event or contributing factor)?</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>Does the film genuinely demonstrate that help is available?</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Does the film portray characters with suicidal thoughts who do not go on to die by suicide?</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Does the film include everyday character(s) who can be a lifeline, such as a teacher, parent, or fellow students providing a safe space to share on mental health topics?</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Does the film avoid showing or describing the details about suicide methods and suicide notes?</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Does the film avoid sensationalizing or glamorizing suicide (overdramatizing and/or glorifying language, scene, music)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Does the film depict the grieving and healing process of people who lose someone to suicide?</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Does the film use nonjudgmental language and behavior about suicide?</td>
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