

'Must-have' DVDs: *Cinema Paradiso*: 1989

Tim Hudson reviews a DVD which every film lover should own.

- 1 *Cinema Paradiso* was directed ¹ by Giuseppe Tornatore. It stars Philippe Noiret as Alfredo, and Salvatore Cascio, who plays the part of the boy. The film won an Oscar in 1989 ² Best Foreign Language film.
- 2 The film is set in an Italian village in the 1940s and 50s. It was filmed on location in Sicily.
- 3 The film is ³ a little boy called Salvatore who ends up becoming a famous film director. ⁴ At the beginning of the film, he goes ⁵ back to his village for the first time in thirty years, for the funeral of an old friend, Alfredo. The rest of the film is a 'flashback' about his childhood. ⁶ In his village there is only one cinema, called Cinema Paradiso. Salvatore is crazy ⁷ about films so he spends all his time there. He becomes friends with Alfredo, the man who shows the films, and later he works ⁸ as his assistant. But when he is a teenager he leaves the village and goes ⁹ to work in Rome, and ¹⁰ in the end he becomes a famous director. He never sees Alfredo again.
- 4 I strongly recommend *Cinema Paradiso*. It makes you laugh and cry, it has a memorable soundtrack, and it is a moving tribute to the magic of the early days of cinema.



- a Look at the title and the photos. Have you seen the film? Would you like to see it?
- d Look at the third paragraph again. What tense do we usually use to tell the story of a film or book?

- b Read the film review. Number the paragraph summaries below in order, 1–4.

Paragraph ☐

The plot

Paragraph ☐

The name of the film, the director, the stars, and any prizes it won

Paragraph ☐

Why you recommend this film

Paragraph ☐

Where and when it was set

- c Read the review again and complete it with the missing words.

about (x2) at as back by in (x2) for to

Useful language: describing a film

It was directed / written by...

It is set in...

It is based on the book...

It's about...

It stars...

My favourite scene is...

WRITE a film review about a film you would recommend people to buy on DVD.

PLAN what you're going to write in the four paragraphs. Use the **Useful language** box and **Vocabulary Bank Cinema p.154** to help you.

CHECK the review for mistakes (**grammar** , **punctuation** , and **spelling**).