



## Brothers of the Wind

Independent, 13-year-old Lukas lives in the grand and imposing mountain valleys of the Austrian Alps. When he finds a young orphaned golden eagle, he vows to protect "Abel" from the dangers of the wild, including his bird hunter father, Keller. Both Keller and Lukas are coming to terms with their grief after the death of Lukas's mother. As Lukas begins to train Abel, they both set off on a journey of self discovery and adventure.

**Recommended for ages 10+**

**Themes:** childhood; coming of age; animals; grief/loss; self-determination; identity; family

**Director(s):** Gerardo Olivares and Otmar Penker | **98 min** | **Drama** | **2015** | **Country:** Austria | **Language:** English



### SET THE STAGE | THOUGHT-STARTERS

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Golden Eagles used to be a prominent fixture throughout Central Europe. In the 19th Century, these eagles became intensely hunted by trophy hunters, egg collectors, and farmers who feared for their livestock. Before this time, raptors built their aeries (or nests) not only in steep cliff walls, but also in high trees. However, this hunting forced them to find more protective areas. Golden Eagles are still a threatened species in the Alps; if a pair are disturbed, they frequently stop breeding. Now, they are a protected species and to ensure their population is maintained, scientists intervene to protect and save the second hatched chick from the attacks of the first born. Later, those birds are released back into the wild, thus allowing the population to grow.

#### WORDS TO KNOW

- **Aerie:** A large nest of a bird of prey, especially an eagle, typically built high in a tree or on a cliff.
- **Gliding:** When birds fly through the air with very little movement of their wings
- **Anthropomorphism:** The attribution of human traits, emotions, and intentions to non-human entities
- **Cinematography:** The art and technique of making motion pictures. This includes how the film uses light, shadow, color, movement and composition within the frame.
- **Shot:** A single uninterrupted section of footage. Shots can be described by how close or far they are from the subject, or by the perspective it shows the audience.
- **Camera Angle:** the position of the camera in relation to the action of the scene, such as a high angle or low angle.

For more film terms, refer to the PCFF Film Glossary ([pcfri.org/FilmHub](http://pcfri.org/FilmHub)).

### TALK ABOUT IT | DISCUSSION

- Which characters do you think have the strongest relationship in the film? How would you describe that relationship? Why do you think it stands out?
- One of the themes in this film is the journey to self discovery. How do Lukas's coming-of-age story and Abel's story mirror each other?
- The filmmakers chose to include footage of golden eagles in their natural habitat in a style similar to that of a nature documentary. How would the film's story be similar or different without these scenes? Why do you think the filmmakers made the choices they did?
- How would you describe the character of Lukas at the beginning of the film? Does this description change by the end of the film? Why or why not?
- Would you consider Abel to be a character in the film? Why or why not? If so, what do you think are his character traits? Do these traits change over the course of the film?
- What did you think of the ending? Did you expect the film to end this way? Why or why not?



Clues and Cues

#### Pay attention while watching

- Think about some of the camera angles used throughout the film. How do you think the filmmakers got those shots and filmed from different perspectives?
- Think about how Lukas and Abel develop as characters over the course of the film. How are they similar or different from beginning to end?

## GET CREATIVE | EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



For Activity Reel details, downloadable storyboard template and more, visit the the Film Hub website: [www.pcffri.org/FilmHub](http://www.pcffri.org/FilmHub)

### • Writing Prompt

*Materials: Pen, paper*

At one point in *Brothers of the Wind*, Forester Danzer tells Keller, "Lukas may be just a boy, but he doesn't lack invention." In what ways does Lukas think "outside of the box" to solve problems he encounters while training Abel and in developing a relationship with his father? Write about a time in your life where you needed to think "outside of the box" to solve a problem. How did you come up with the solution?

### • Poster to Raise Awareness

*Materials: Paper, colored pencils, markers*

Think about what you've learned about golden eagles from *Brothers of the Wind*, and then create a poster that could be used to promote the protection of an endangered species. How would you try to show others the importance of this particular animal? Consider what types of activism (such as raising money or organizing a community cleanup) could help this animal.

### • Origami Eagle

*Materials: Paper*

Using a blank piece of paper, make your own origami eagle! Origami is the art of folding paper, and the designs can range from simple to complex. Search for "Origami eagle" tutorials online to find a design with instructions on how to fold the paper.

## BEYOND THE FILM | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Select from the following resources to complement the film and inspire further discussion or programming.

### BOOKS

#### • The Yearling

*by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings*

Young Jody adopts an orphaned fawn and makes it part of his family. But life in the Florida backwoods is harsh, and Jody must struggle with keeping his family alive and caring for his beloved pet.

#### • The Black Stallion

*by Walter Farley*

After their ship sinks, a young boy and a black stallion form a strong bond while stranded together on a remote desert island.

#### • Hoot

*by Carl Hiaasen*

Roy has recently moved to Florida, where he falls in with a group of oddball friends. Together, they try to stop the development of a new pancake house that would displace a family of burrowing owls.

### FILMS

#### • The Eagle Hunter's Son (2011)

A 12-year-old Kurdish nomadic boy dreams of joining his brother in the big city, but his father wants him to continue the generations long family tradition of eagle hunting.

#### • Hordur: Between Worlds (2016)

A young woman struggles to accept her mother's death while simultaneously trying to face her fears at school. She finds answers in the story of Hordur (the horse) a pony who is not allowed to return once it leaves its homeland.

#### • A Shine of Rainbows (2009)

Tomas is a shy eight-year-old who's been adopted and taken to a remote island in Ireland. He and his ornery father develop an emotional bond after experiencing a tragedy together.

#### • Chandani: The Daughter of an Elephant Whisperer (2010)

Sixteen-year-old Chandani has a burning desire: She wants to follow in her father's footsteps and become a mahout, a traditional elephant caretaker in Sri Lanka. This is customarily a job only for men; all the other mahouts around her doubt her abilities and oppose her plans.

#### • Kauwboy (2013)

Jojo, a lively 10-year-old with a difficult home life marked by a volatile father and an absent mother, finds solace in an abandoned baby jackdaw. Through their special friendship he builds with the bird, the bond between Jojo and his father will be strengthened or broken.

#### • Eagle Huntress (2016)

Aishol-pan, a 13-year-old girl, trains to become the first female eagle hunter in 12 generations of her Kazakh family, a tradition handed down from father to son for centuries.

• Indicates PCFF festival selection

### LOCAL CONNECTIONS

• Rhode Island Audubon Society: [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org)

• Providence Raptors (Wildlife Photography by Peter Green): Providence-based photographer Peter Green has been documenting the city's downtown falcons since 2006. His work has been displayed in the Providence Journal and in the DC offices of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. [www.providenceraptors.com](http://www.providenceraptors.com)

• Wildlife Rehabilitators Rhode Island: A non-profit organization providing wildlife rehabilitation to sick, orphaned, or injured animals. [www.riwildliferehab.org](http://www.riwildliferehab.org)

• Born to Be Wild Nature Center: [hawkri.org](http://hawkri.org)

## BEYOND THE FILM | RELATED INTERNET LINKS

- **Making of Brothers of the Wind:**  
[bulldrive.redbull.com/dl/7Dc7tTvFnE](http://bulldrive.redbull.com/dl/7Dc7tTvFnE)
- **National Geographic on Golden Eagles:**  
[animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/golden-eagle/](http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/golden-eagle/)
- **Information on the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act:**  
[www.fws.gov/midwest/MidwestBird/eaglepermits/bagepa.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MidwestBird/eaglepermits/bagepa.html)

