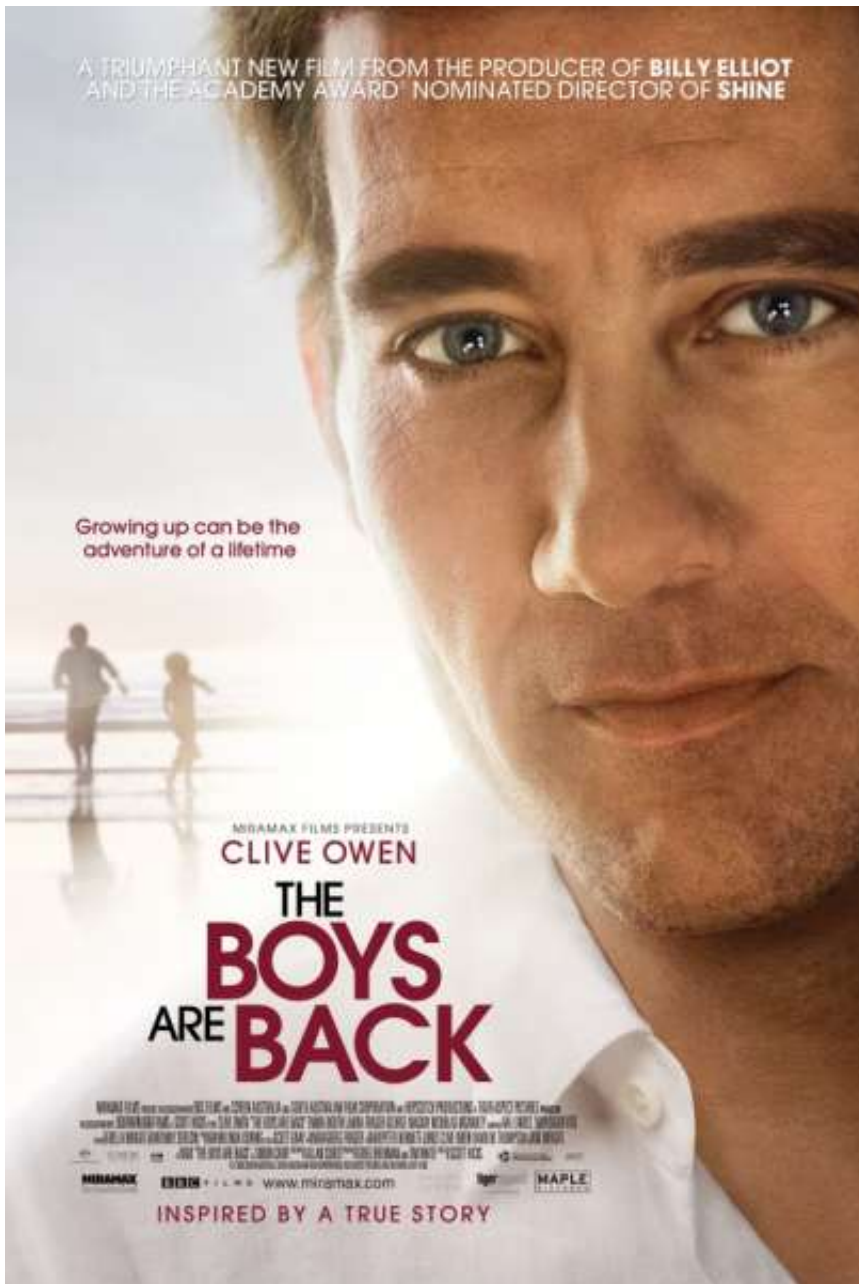


**#10: *The Boys Are Back***



*(directed by Scott Hicks, screenplay by Allan Cubitt, novel by Simon Carr)*

Scott Hicks' [The Boys Are Back](#) accomplished something remarkable... It managed to take a rather somber premise – a husband and father dealing with his wife's untimely death – and turn it into a downright cheerful film. The film is shot in Hicks' native Adelaide, Australia, and Greig Fraser's cinematography (complimented by Hal Lindes' delightful score) give this film an absolutely gorgeous backdrop. The film excels in its tone and pacing. It deals with some weighty issues, but the story moves right along when it needs to, and never veers too far into somber territory without coming back to show us something genuinely delightful. This variable emotional curve could easily have come off as jarring, bipolar, and seemingly not serious enough for the film's subject matter, but it manages to avoid these problems. The result is a joyous portrait of family and fatherhood, featuring a trio of strong performances from Clive Owen and his cinematic sons.