



September 22, 2016

## Sully



*Sully* is another in a long series of great performances by Tom Hanks. He has the everyday hero down to a science and while you know it's him, he manages to transform not so much physically as in capturing the essence of the people he portrays. This time, he is Sully Sullenberger the airline pilot who saved 155 passengers by landing on the Hudson River. Now you would think that there's not much to tell, but there a lot more that wasn't known to the public when Sully took control of over a hundred people's fate and made what can only be called a miracle call informed by his years of training and experience.

Enter the FAA whose investigation into what happened became an injustice as the focus became limited to what could have been done in the situation instead of what actually happened. It

seemed as though the emphasis was more on the plane that was destroyed instead of on the lives that were saved. *Sully* is a very human drama that plays out equally on the surface of the water as in the office of the FAA as Sully is called in to answer for his actions. The scene is brilliant. In the best courtroom style moments, Sully is able to bring focus back to reality and demonstrate how human beings will always outperform machines when it really matters.

Hanks reminds us that integrity, decency and humanity are always more valuable than the corporate bottom line. When I read negative stories about the work that we as public



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servants do in the moment to moment effort to save lives and see or hear disparaging comments full of blame and accusation, I remind myself that those who do not do the work or know the full story are merely responding to what they perceive and what they believe to be true.

These “investigative” truths are seldom 100% accurate. Such was the case here and for that reason, I recommend *Sully* as a well-crafted, based on true events story that will leave you feeling good. Be sure to stay through all the credits to see photos of the real people involved in the landing and of Sully himself, who should feel nothing but gratitude that his instincts and experience saved so many and that he lived to tell the story—accurately.

In honor of the late brilliant Gene Wilder, I give *Sully* five Wonka’s Golden Tickets.

