



***Cinema Paradiso*** is a 1988 film, directed by Giuseppe Tornatore and won the Academy Award for Best Foreign film. It stars Jacques Perrin and Philippe Noiret, while it has a memorable soundtrack composed by Ennio Morricone along with his son Andrea.

The film is set in Giancaldo, an Italian village, in post-World War II. It tells how Salvatore de Vita, a well-known filmmaker, recalls his childhood when falling in love with the cinema and its magic, and his relationship with Alfredo, the former projectionist at Cinema Paradiso.

My favourite scene is the final one, the censored kisses scene. Salvatore "Toto" came back to Giancaldo after 30 years to attend the funeral of his mentor and good friend Alfredo. He revisited the remains of Cinema Paradiso, which was later demolished. He remembered how the priest rang a bell every time that there was a scene that had to be censored and deleted. He was given a gift of a reel of film by Alfredo's widow that he screened as soon as he arrived at work in Rome. Watching the long montage of romantic scenes that the priest had ordered to be cut from the movies, Alfredo had spliced the sequences together to make a single film. Looking at the screen, Salvatore reconciles himself with his past with tears in his eyes.

I love this ending scene because it is very emotionally evocative. The music fits beautifully with the images. I think that if there is art in the cinema it is definitely reflected in this scene.