The Agents of Change

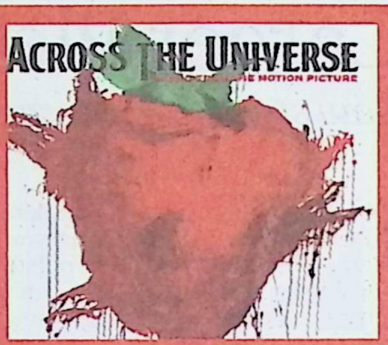
Compiled by Tawsif Saleheen

Concurrent with our anniversary theme, this week we take a look at some movies that personified change itself. Due to lack of space, the list fails to incorporate many deserving movies, but it (eloquently) manages to present a handful of digital masterpieces that the Campus team could instantly recall.



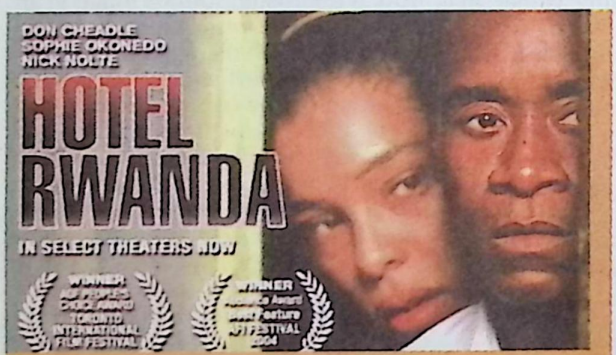
2001 A Space Odyssey

Part space opera, part cinematic symphony and part horror story, the film is a shape-shifting painting. Much of the movie is free of dialogue, including the opening 25 minutes and the final 23 minutes. Instead of a standard laser-blasting, pepped-up score, Kubrick went with a bed of classical music. Strokes of artistry sweep the broad canvas. The special effects depicting zero gravity and space-pod docking were groundbreaking and still stand as beacons of perfection. Put "2001," with its old-school camera tricks, miniatures and models, up against modern outer-space epics, and the former looks more authentic than the most advanced CGI.

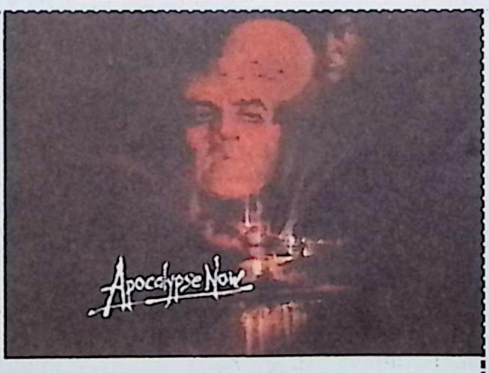


Across the Universe

Visually and thematically audacious, *Across the Universe* revolves around the romance that ensues between a pair of disparate characters (Jim Sturgess' British steelworker Jude and Evan Rachel Wood's privileged American student Lucy) against the backdrop of some of the '60s most well known events. Director Julie Taymor, armed with over two dozen Beatles songs, has fashioned a contemporary musical that's certainly unlike anything the genre has to offer.



Don Cheadle gives a beautifully restrained tour de force performance as a singular voice of reason at the epicenter of writer/director Terry George's depiction of Rwanda's outbreak of genocide in 1994 when Hutu militias slaughtered one million Tutsis with machetes as the world looked away. Cheadle plays real-life hero Paul Rusesabagina, the Hutu manager of Rwanda's only four-star hotel, as he gives precious shelter to over 1,200 Tutsis while attempting to gain assistance from apathetic politicians and diplomats around the world including the United Nations and the United States.



Apocalypse Now

Apocalypse Now is one of the great American movies of all time and perhaps the single best war film ever made. The depth and audacity of Mr. Coppola's vision makes even the most ambitious of today's films look timid and dreary by comparison. It is all but impossible to imagine a movie remotely like this one winning the support of a major studio today.

From its opening scene of Capt. Benjamin Willard (Martin Sheen) falling apart in a Saigon hotel while waiting to be sent on another assassin's mission, the movie is a nightmare trip into the darkest reaches of the human soul.

(Source: Rotten Tomatoes)