

MOVIE REVIEW

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"Whiplash" follows the story of an ambitious 19-year-old music student striving to achieve greatness as a jazz drummer. As he enrolls in the Manhattan-based Shaffer Conservatory, Andrew Neiman (Miles Teller) meets music teacher Terence Fletcher (J.K. Simmons). Fletcher, seeing potential in Andrew, considers him for the core drummer spot in the academy's most important jazz band. Now Andrew must push himself, make sacrifices and even practice till his hands bleed to fully impress Fletcher and secure the spot in the band.

Miles Teller gives a very believable performance as the apprehensive but strongly driven Andrew Neiman. However, J.K. Simmons certainly takes the cake, for his Oscar winning performance as Terrence – an insult-hurling, foul-mouthed music instructor who is either taking his students down or helping them become the next big thing in music. Throughout the film both Andrew's determination and Fletcher's perfectionist (bordering

on maniacal) methods to groom his students surprise us greatly. "Whiplash" brings forth questions like how far an artist will push himself and what extreme lengths a mentor will go to in order to make a musician realise his full potential. Understandably Fletcher isn't an easy character to love, but as you start trying to understand him you can't really despise him either.

The movie captures every musician's struggles – personal and emotional – faced in the highly competitive music scene, which to put it simply aren't easy to tackle. It also makes one wonder about when it is acceptable or necessary to give up or take a break.

The film is certainly inspiring and one can't help but admire the character that is Andrew Neiman. However certain themes or sub-plots aren't set that deep and only manage to scratch the surface; "Whiplash" is definitely entertaining but not deeply meaningful or thematic.

All in all, "Whiplash" is climactic and lively, and at some points breathtaking. Jazz lover or not, the music is captivating. The well-executed ending steered clear of clichés. If you're okay with some profanity and a few scenes of violence, this engaging movie will not disappoint.

THERE ARE NO TWO WORDS
IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
MORE HARMFUL THAN "GOOD JOB"

WHIPLASH
MILES TELLER J.K. SIMMONS



When bands should consider quitting

RAYAAN IBTESHAM CHOWDHURY

The birth of rock 'n' roll was one of mankind's finest hours. Since then, rock bands have become an integral part of pop culture. They entertain, they enthrall and they always have a hard time realising when to call it quits. There are bands that keep releasing albums that only serve to prove that creativity doesn't last forever and then there are bands that come up with gimmicks like having an orangutan play bass. In either case, it becomes painfully clear that the spark is long gone and the curtains should really be drawn.

Through this article, we take a look at a few signs that point out that a band is past it.

4. When half the original members are dead

Now this might sound a bit harsh and we know band line ups change all the time but if a band claims to be a band with just one original member remaining, it's kind of sad. Regardless of changes, we all have an idea of what a particular band's "best line up" was and when two out of those 5 are dead, one is in a coma and the other two haven't spoken in decades, the "band" really isn't the "band".

If anyone gets a lawyer to dig through all the loopholes, getting legal



control over a band's name is easy. But the artists should realise that that name is more than just a few words strung together. And in most cases, the one remaining original member who is keeping the "band" alive is way past it, can't sing or play anymore, and spends most of his time pointing out how former members were "cancer". Not looking at you, Axl.

3. When strange gimmicks become important

Now I'm not saying Metallica had to

play in Antarctica to get more attention because we all know they are still very relevant. I'm just saying they didn't mind doing it, because like most bands, they've played their best material a few years ago and apart from underground metal scenes in 3rd world countries where young bands insist on paying for a slot, a lot of people won't really flip out about the new Metallica album.

So maybe playing in Antarctica becomes a good idea. Hey, not every-

one can play in all 7 continents.

2. When most interviews are about how "rock is dead"

You know, if you're still an "active" band and you say "rock is dead", then you're probably selling yourself short. We all love nostalgia and we're all convinced the morally questionable days of the '60s were the best but if the fact that your new material has lost the shine you once had and your new albums won't sell that much is a hard pill to swallow, don't just blame it on the times. Rock was made to rebel against the older generation that criticised new ideas. If rock itself becomes the establishment that disapproves of the new, something is wrong.

1. When more noise is made online than on stage

Does this even have to be explained? Bands taking a stab at each other is a classic element of rock 'n' roll. But for bands to write angst filled, well thought out paragraphs to have a go at each other online, in a fashion resembling emo teenage girls discussing stolen boyfriends, something is wrong. And that a million fanboys idolise this fight is something we should really be concerned about.

Special mention: Hats in the Bangladeshi music scene.