

# MAD MAX: FURY ROAD



**Director:** George Miller  
**Writer:** George Miller  
**Stars:** Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult  
**Strengths:** Action, effects and acting  
**Weakness:** Storyline is quite simplistic  
**Runtime:** 120 minutes  
**Rating:** 4.5/5

**PLOT:** In a stark desert landscape where humanity is broken, two rebels just might be able to restore order: Max, a man of action and of few words, and Furiosa, a woman of action who is looking to make it back to her childhood homeland.  
**REVIEW:** 'Mad Max: Fury Road' is the 4th installment in mastermind, George Miller's insane post-apocalyptic journey. Imperator Furiosa (Charlize Theron) has to drive a 'war 'rig to the next town and

siphon gasoline. Furiosa ends up double crossing her boss 'Immortan Joe' and steals his 5 wives to take them back to her homeland where they can be safe. Alongside her is Max, a man of action and very few words. Together they must fight through hordes of enemies in what is basically a 2 hour long, high speed chase that is riddled with fire and blood. This movie is absolutely insane. What you saw in the trailers wasn't even close to the level of crazy that goes down in this movie. The stunt work is choreographed and directed to perfection. There's explosions going off everywhere, cars blowing up left, right and center, people being killed and blown to shreds. But none of it is convoluted, it all streams together perfectly, you know what is happening, when

it happens. The only legitimate complaint is that there's not much of a story. But honestly, the story is just enough to achieve the connections needed between the characters in the movie to come together and for the chase to take place. It is indeed a all-out action flick. For something to be great it doesn't need to be a vibrant cohesive piece of art. There's enough story to keep you paying attention to it and not just going in for explosions. Not to mention that it's not driven through its narrative or its dialog. It's driven by its characters and its action. The character of Nicholas Hoult was developed amazingly well, I didn't really expect to see much from him but he really became his own in this movie. Furiosa was also developed just enough to make

you feel something for her character. She's one of the only good left in a world full of bad. What Miller does in this movie is make characters that not only do you care for but are also incredibly likable and super bad ass. Max wasn't developed as much as some of the others but that's because you already know who Mad Max is. He's a man that's had everything taken from him and he has nothing left to lose. All he wants is to be left in peace. But it's really Furiosa who carries the movie. She is fierce, she's skilled, she's unpredictable and she's all out bad ass. Mad Max: Fury Road is an instant action classic. If you don't see it in theaters then you are missing out.  
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*Reviewed by MOHAMMAD HAQUE*

# BOMBAY VELVET



**Director:** Anurag Kashyap  
**Writers:** Vasan Bala, Anurag Kashyap  
**Stars:** Ranbir Kapoor, Anushka Sharma, Karan Johar  
**Strength:** Perfectly recreated environments  
**Weakness:** Poor direction  
**Runtime:** 149 minutes  
**Rating:** 2.5/5

**PLOT:** An ordinary man goes against all odds and forges his destiny to become a 'Big Shot'.  
**REVIEW:** Based on Gyan Prakash's book Mumbai Fables, Bombay Velvet is about those days when a newly independent India was struggling to find its feet. Bombay, due to its strategically positioned dockyard and a number of mills, was fast emerging as the perfect centre for trade and trade unions. There begins the actual story of Bombay Velvet. The Bombay Velvet plot is littered with street fights, shootouts and murders on the one hand, and jazz soirees, bitter tabloid wars, fierce political rivalries, deadly depredations of land sharks and labour unrest on the other.  
The main plot of the movie is that of Johnny Balraj (Ranbir Kapoor), a street kid who strays into a city in rapid flux two years after Independence and is

raised by a Falkland Road sex worker. With childhood chum and fellow migrant Chimman Chopra (Satyadeep Mishra), a gawky-eyed Balraj watches James Cagney die in the arms of Gladys George in the climax of the classic 1939 gangster film, The Roaring Twenties. Ever since watching this film, he becomes obsessed with the idea of becoming a big shot. The only other major obsession of Balraj's life is jazz singer Rosie Noronha (Anushka Sharma), who sings with gusto of the hard knocks that life has subjected her to.  
By the time the myriad manipulations begin to wind down, Bombay Velvet runs out of steam. The last half-hour of the film is devoted to going through the motions to reach a climax that is as grotesque as it is risible. The film has been considered one of the most anticipated Bollywood films of 2015. Unfortunately, the film hasn't been able to deliver on its hype and is now considered an epic disaster due to its abysmal performance at the box office. In short, only diehard fans of Ranbir or Anushka can make themselves watch this movie.  
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*Reviewed by INTISAB SHAHRIYAR*

## CLASSIC REVIEW

# TAXI DRIVER (1976)

**Director:** Martin Scorsese  
**Writer:** Paul Schrader  
**Stars:** Robert De Niro, Jodie Foster, Cybill Shepherd  
**Runtime:** 113 minutes

**PLOT:** A mentally unstable Vietnam war veteran works as a night-time taxi driver in New York City where the perceived decadence and sleaze feeds his urge for violent action, attempting to save a preadolescent prostitute in the process.  
**REVIEW:** Taxi Driver features Robert De Niro in top form. From his first scene in Taxi Driver, De Niro is Travis Bickle, a 26-year old ex-Marine searching for work that will keep him up all night as a means of combating insomnia. At the outset, Travis is a lonely, disillusioned man who can still function within the "normal" constraints of society. As time passes, however, Travis becomes increasingly alienated from the world around him, spiraling into a state of dissociated delusion. He sees New York City as a place of urban decay populated by "animals" and "scum" that need to be swept away. And who better than him to initiate the process? De Niro's performance is so perfectly-tuned that the audience don't have a moment's doubt or disbelief about what's taking place in Travis' troubled mind.  
There's no doubt that Taxi Driver paints an extremely disturbing portrait. This is expert film making from

Scorsese, cinematographer Michael Chapman, and the actors. Schrader's script, which was inspired by such diverse works as Dostoevsky's Notes From Underground and Harry Chapin's song, "Taxi," is a masterful psychological study, the depth of which can only fully be appreciated on repeat viewings.  
Despite the passage of two decades, the only thing dated about this film is the fashions. Taxi Driver's message still rings as true as ever and the characters are as shockingly believable as in the mid-seventies. It's a proper classic and an absolute must watch.  
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*Reviewed by INTISAB SHAHRIYAR*

