

LAST KNIGHTS



Director: Kazuaki Kiriya
Writers: Michael Konyves, Dove Sussman
Stars: Clive Owen, Morgan Freeman, Aksel Hennie
Strengths: Story and script
Weakness: Slow plot development and mediocre action/ visual effects
Runtime: 115 minutes
Rating: 3/5

Plot: A fallen warrior rises against a corrupt and sadistic ruler to avenge his dishonored master in a sword-clashing adventure of loyalty, honor, and vengeance.

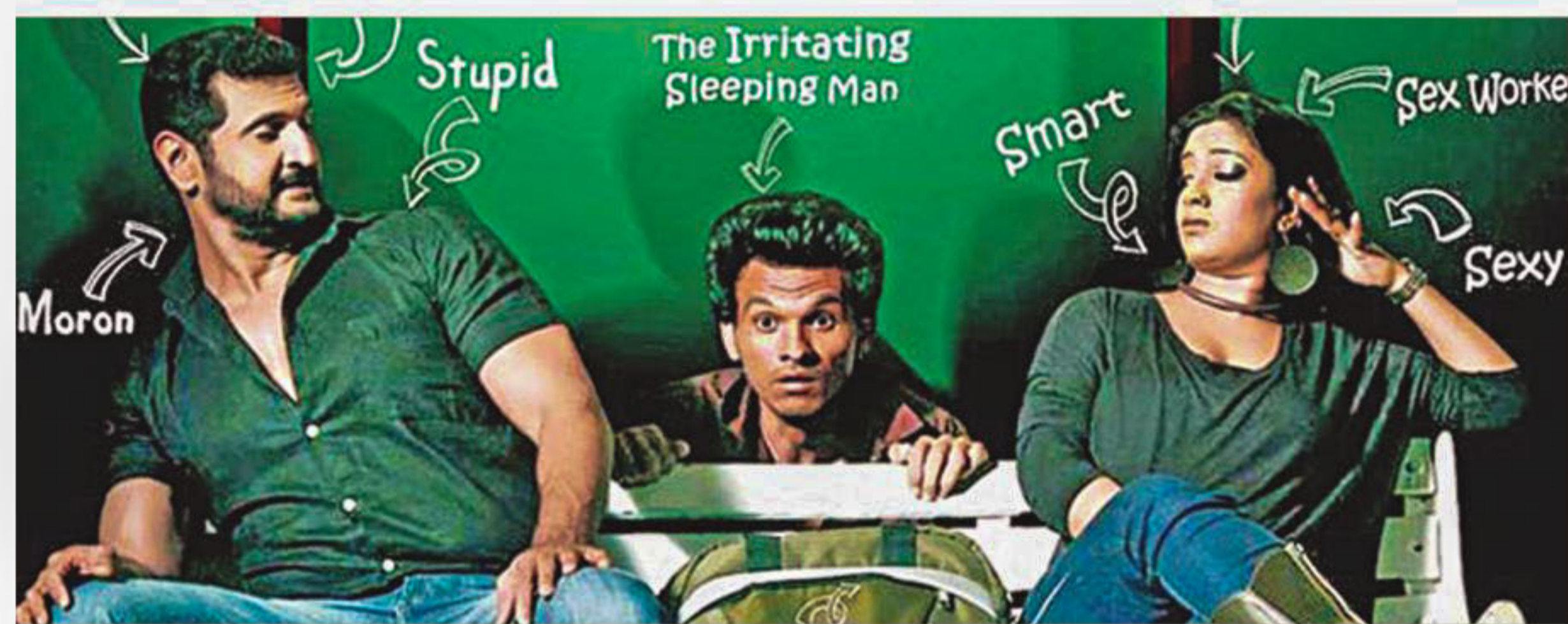
Review: This is not your summer block-

buster, so it makes sense that Last Knights has not made the headlines. The movie does not fit into the profile of a regular Hollywood or internationally successful movie since it takes a long time to set the stage. But if you are open to different storytelling, then this movie is to be loved. The initial setting takes about an hour but this lays a good foundation for the plot to continue. The story is great, and the acting is spot on. One might expect this to be an action movie given how the story unfolds, but at heart this is not an action movie. It's a story about honour and loyalty, and uses action only when necessary as part of the

story. There is a lot of depth to both the story and characters. Both Clive Owen and Morgan Freeman gave wonderful performances and as someone who loves their movies I felt satisfied just to see them in these particular roles. Morgan Freeman plays Lord Bartok, who stands up to a corrupt minister of the Capital, leading to fatal results for himself and his clan. Clive Owen plays his retainer, Raiden, who becomes a fallen warrior after his master's passing. He rises against the corrupt and sadistic minister to avenge his dishonored master. The details of storming the castle are well choreographed. Seeing the shifts in

Raiden's character from faithful retainer to lost soul to avenger was the most interesting part of the movie. Where the film falls short is really in the action choreography and special effects. We live in a world where sword fighting films have a lot of pressure to deliver in terms of special effects and fight choreography, after all, we have all seen Zack Snyder's '300' and its sequel. But, if you aren't primarily drawn to films for action, enjoy a good story and solid acting performances then don't Last Knights will be a pleasant experience for you.

Reviewed by MOHAMMAD HAQUE



MAIN HOON RAJINIKANTH

Director: Faisal Saif
Writers: Faisal Saif
Stars: Adithya Menon, Kavita Radheshyam
Strength: Cinematography, Acting
Weakness: Budget constraints lower production value
Runtime: 127 minutes
Rating: 3.5/5

PLOT: The film tells the story of a comical C.B.I officer-cum-contract killer Rajinikanth who goes in for a killing-spree undercover assignment from a millionaire.

REVIEW: The story follows the ordeals of a man who is a CBI Officer cum Contract Killer and he is unfortunately or fortunately named Rajinikanth. We read jokes on superstar Rajinikanth where we imagine him doing unexpected things for the sake of entertainment. Here we see a man named Rajinikanth who cannot do 'One' proper job without creating trouble.

The man Rajinikanth has been assigned with the job of getting 5 Crore rupees from corrupt cop Naidu (Shabir Ali) and giving the money back to Mr. Bachchan. Rajinikanth has been ordered to kill

Naidu in this process. Instead of killing Naidu however, Rajinikanth kills every Tom, Dick and Harry just because they have seen his face. He meets a sex-worker named Mallika and learns she is trying to escape with the 5 Crores. You have all three of these characters in one film; Rajinikanth, Bachchan and Mallika who are irritating each other and that is what makes you laugh your heart out.

Speaking about the performances, Adithya Menon steals the show with his tailor-made role and his awesome expressions. Kavita Radheshyam proves she is not only a beautiful but has serious talent to back it up as well. As for the soundtrack, the film has three nice songs which includes Bappi Lahiri's classic Mujhe naulakha mangaa de re.

This Rajinikanth film deserves to be seen as it is better than Rajini's Lingaa. The film is a must see for all the Rajinikanth fans.

Reviewed by INTISAB SHAHRIYAR

CLASSIC REVIEW

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA (1962)

Director: David Lean
Writer: T.E. Lawrence, Robert Bolt
Stars: Peter O'Toole, Alec Guinness, Anthony Quinn
Runtime: 216 minutes

PLOT: Follows a brilliant, flamboyant and controversial British military figure and his conflicted loyalties during wartime service.

REVIEW: Two years in the making, Lawrence of Arabia is the very definition of a big-screen historical epic, sweeping in scope, ambitious and gorgeously realized. Based on the life of British officer/adventurer T.E. Lawrence, it's justly famous for its ferocious battle scenes and evocation of the harshly beautiful Arabian deserts. The classic movie won seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Lawrence was an obscure lieutenant serving in Cairo in World War I, known for his classical education, knowledge of Arab language and culture and general lack of discipline. With a mixture of real historical figures and events, composite characters and invention, the movie follows Lawrence's military triumphs.

For a movie that runs 216 minutes, plus intermission, "Lawrence of Arabia" is not dense with plot details. It is a spare movie in clean, uncluttered lines, and there is never a moment when we're in doubt about the logistical details of the various campaigns. There are some great things in this film

- which runs for 3 hours and 40 minutes, not counting intermission. There is some magnificent scenery, barbaric fights, a mirage in the desert that is superb.

Seeing David Lean's masterpiece on the big screen defines why cinema is the art form it is and what can be achieved when every aspect that goes into making a film is functioning at its optimum level. There are many films which are great. There are some which are outstanding. There are a few which are close to cinematic perfection. Above all these, there is Lawrence of Arabia.

Reviewed by INTISAB SHAHRIYAR

