



Director: Dean Israelite
Writers: Jason Pagan, Andrew Deutschman
Stars: Jonny Weston, Sofia Black-D'Elia, Sam Lerner
Strengths: Effects and storytelling
Weakness: Lack of coherent plot, not everyone will enjoy 'found-footage' style
Runtime: 106 minutes
Rating: 2.5/5

PLOT: As a group of friends discover plans for a time machine, they build it and use it to fix their problems and for personal gain. But as the future falls apart with disasters, and each of them disappear little by little, they must travel back to the past to make sure they never invent the

machine or face the destruction of humanity.
REVIEW: Much like Chronicle, this film profiles exactly what would happen when you give teenagers certain powers. In Chronicle it was super powers and in Project Almanac, it's the ability to travel through time. There is nothing really new in this movie that you haven't seen before, and the tech isn't really explained very well. But, the sci-fi jargon isn't really the main focus of the story. The film does a good job in developing the primary character, David Raskin, a genius aspiring to get into MIT. He and his friends are in the ride of their lives when they discover how

to build a time machine. It is an interesting movie with some good special effects. Given that all the actors are newcomers, it's pretty well acted out as well. The chemistry between David and Jessie brings the story home at the end, and the audience can relate to the mistakes David makes. Watch it – wouldn't you do the same thing? There were a couple of plot holes but there were also some funny nods to movies such as Back to the Future. You remember the scene where Doc Brown is trying to get two electric cables to connect? This movie will also remind people of the superb low-budget 'Primer' which covers some of the same ground, and also

Minutemen. Also, Almanac had some good jokes, which many movies seem to leave out. The 'found-footage' camera work doesn't work here as well as it did with Chronicle, and there will be a lot of people who will think this would be better with conventional cinematography. But to some, this filming style with all the jumping about, whirling, juddering and flicking etc. will make the events of the film all the more real. It's a passable movie for those who only watch the best movies of the year, but for lovers of sci-fi movies, this is a must watch.

Reviewed by MOHAMMAD HAQUE



KUCH KUCH LOCHA HAI

Director: Devang Dholakia
Writer: Devang Dholakia
Cast: Sunny Leone, Ram Kapoor, Evelyn Sharma
Strength: Acting
Weakness: No engaging story, Direction
Rating: 1.5/5

PLOT: Ram plays a rich Gujarati businessman and Sunny, a famous film star. The situations they find themselves in makes for the entire movie.
REVIEW: The film starts with the introduction of Pravin Patel aka PP (Ram Kapoor), his family and the girl of his dreams Shanaya (Sunny Leone), who is a Bollywood actress. PP's family consists of his 'religiously religious' wife Kokila aka 'Krokodile' (Suchita Trivedi) and his son Jigar aka 'Jigolo' (Navdeep Chabra), who is an aspiring rockstar who are happily settled in Malaysia. However, they are totally unaware of PP's 'feelings' towards Shanaya. PP's luck hits a goldmine when he gets chosen as a winner in a contest whose bumper prize is a 'date with Shanaya'.

Amidst the 'date', Shanaya offers to stay with him as a part of her homework for a role in a forthcoming film. PP lands up lying to her that he is unmarried and stays with his parents. When Shanaya tells him that she would like to spend time in a close knit family, PP convinces his rock star son to become his father and his son's girlfriend Naina (Evelyn Sharma) to become his mother! All the questions that stem from PP's actions make up the course of the film.
Unfortunately, the premise is staid and it's treatment obnoxious. The direction is careless, on the face close and up front and theatrically projected. The characters are cardboard thin with no depth or graph and the dialogues too are oft heard, cliched with Bollywood references.
Devang Dholakia's Kuch Kuch Locha Hai, touted as a sex comedy, but isn't, packaged like a never-ending soap opera, with skin show and cheap, ineffective thrills galore.

Reviewed By INTISAB SHAHRIYAR

CLASSIC REVIEW

PELLE THE CONQUEROR (1987)

Director: Bille August
Writers: Martin Andersen Nexø, Bille August
Stars: Pelle Hvenegaard, Max von Sydow, Erik Paaske
Runtime: 157 minutes

PLOT: A Swedish peasant and his young son immigrate from to Norway and find themselves toiling cheerlessly on a remote and desolate farm owned by a lecher, run by a sadist and staffed by misfits.
REVIEW: The Danish film, which won the Golden Palm, at the 1988 Cannes Festival, is a vividly re-created, minutely detailed panorama of a particular time (the turn of the century), place (rural Denmark) and circumstance (life on a great farm) in the course of the four seasons. The observer is Pelle (Pelle Hvenegaard), a staunch, wide-eyed Swedish boy who has come to Denmark with his aging, destitute and widowed father, Lasse (Max von Sydow).
Lasse has promised his son that Denmark will be a land of opportunity, a place of plentiful jobs, where pork is served on Sundays and butter is spread on bread. Instead Lasse and Pelle are lucky to be hired as little better than indentured servants, underpaid, underfed and overworked.
Mr. August never indulges the pathos that is built into the story, which is to his credit as a disciplined film maker,

though it also keeps the film at a slight remove from the audience. One is never unaware that this is a very long movie. Mr. August brings a cool 20th-century sensibility to what is, at heart, a piece of passionate 19th-century fiction.
This is a movie that doesn't rush the audience to its plot. Rather it keeps the audience hooked to the unfolding as elegantly as possible. Because of this approach, it's easy to catch by almost any kind of audience.

Reviewed by INTISAB SHAHRIYAR

