

## MOVIE REVIEW



**Directors:** Pete Docter, Ronaldo Del Carmen  
**Writers:** Pete Docter, Ronaldo Del Carmen  
**Stars:** Amy Poehler, Bill Hader, Lewis Black  
**Strengths:** Story, comedy and acting  
**Weakness:** The central concept will be difficult for young kids to understand  
**Runtime:** 94 minutes  
**Rating:** 4.5/5

**PLOT:** After young Riley is uprooted from her Midwest life and moved to San Francisco, her emotions - Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness - conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house, and school.

**REVIEW:** After some ho-hum years and too many sequels, Pixar is back and better than ever with *Inside Out*, a boldly unique animated film that renews our faith in what a giant studio can do with an original concept. Docter combines the strengths of his two Pixar masterworks here: the endless inventiveness of *Monster's Inc.* and the poignant strength of *Up*. A truly fantastic mixture of fantasy-adventure-comedy and small-family-drama, it's a genius work of conception, execution and emotion that will go down in the annals of Disney animation as an instant and enduring classic. It follows

Joy, the leading-emotion of an 11-year-old girl, as she tries to navigate a big change in her young life. Much like *Toy Story 3*, we're shown the inherent difficulties of growing up through a fresh viewpoint, learning what makes you "you". It's a convoluted idea that's nearly impossible to explain, and yet Pixar nails it, perfectly shifting between its parallel universes with ease. The humor throughout will undoubtedly have kids and adults in equal stitches, with fantastic turns from everyone, notably Poehler, Smith, Black, and Kind. However, this film's high-point may be the multiple

emotional gut-punches that will reduce parents to tears. That fearlessness to be gloomy is basically the thesis of the film: true joy comes when every emotion is allowed to be recognized and dealt with healthfully. It's quite a psychologically complex stance to take for a film that manages to be so kid-friendly. This wonderful balancing act helps make *Inside Out* worthy of the "M" word (masterpiece) and gives it the distinction of being Pixar's best since the unparalleled *Toy Story*.

Reviewed by **Mohammad Haque**

## ABCD 2



**Director:** Remo  
**Writers:** Mayur Puri, Remo  
**Cast:** Lauren Gottlieb, Shraddha Kapoor, Varun Dhawan  
**Strength:** Dance Sequences, Acting  
**Weakness:** Story  
**Runtime:** 154 minutes  
**Rating:** 3/5

**PLOT:** The story traces the journey of an Indian dance troupe, who come from the backstreets of a Mumbai suburb; their rise to fame, sudden downfall and then their heroic attempt to seek vindication by regaining their lost glory and pride.

**REVIEW:** Song and dance is, needless to say, a Bollywood staple, but pure dance films are rare. Rarer still is a 3D dance film. But whatever novelty *ABCD 2* delivers is only skin deep. The story it tells is as hackneyed as they come: the young protagonists, led by an inspirational dance guru (Prabhu Deva) who has a back story of his own, travel from the dark, dank school of hard knocks to the bright lights and distracting inducements of Las Vegas to bask in global glory.

All through this two-and-a-half-hour sequel to the 2013 3D hit, *ABCD - Any Body Can Dance*, the dance steps are dazzlingly dramatic. But that is the very least you would expect from a film helmed by a choreographer and featuring Prabhu Deva in a pivotal role.

While it might get a little cringe-worthy, it's still enjoyable in some parts. With a cast crammed with energetic guys who need no provocation to set the dance floor on fire, *ABCD 2* delivers passages of stunning musical calisthenics.

Varun Dhawan is no mug at this game and he holds his own alongside the likes of Sushant Pujari, Dharmesh Yelande, Raghav Juyal, Punit Pathak and Lauren Gottlieb. The only non-dancer in the principal cast is Shraddha Kapoor, but she too melds perfectly into this cheerfully breathless world where everybody is a master twirler.

This movie is a must-watch for dance lovers. For general movie watchers, this might not be an enjoyable flick.

Reviewed By **Intisab Shabriyar**

## CLASSIC REVIEW

### MISS JULIE (1951)

**Director:** Alf Sjöberg  
**Writers:** Alf Sjöberg, August Strindberg  
**Stars:** Anita Björk, Ulf Palme, Märta Dorff  
**Runtime:** 90 minutes

**PLOT:** The film deals with class, sex and power as the title character, the daughter of a Count in 19th century Sweden, begins a relationship with one of the estate's servants.

**REVIEW:** Swedish filmmaker Alf Sjöberg's visually innovative, Cannes Grand Prix-winning adaptation of August Strindberg's renowned 1888 play brings to scalding life the excoriating words of the stage's preeminent surveyor of all things rotten in the state of male-female relations. *Miss Julie* vividly depicts the battle of the sexes and classes that ensues when a wealthy businessman's daughter falls for her father's bitter servant.

The best things about this Swedish picture are its strong imagistic qualities and a passionate, tormented performance of the principal role by Anita Björk. Mr. Sjöberg has written a screen play that permits him to move with fluid ease from one time level to another, so that the ordinary flashback device becomes with him just a

matter of panning from one to another scene. This makes for an interesting conjunction of immediate and previous events, all flowing suitably together for strong, impressive dramatic effects.

Celebrated for its unique cinematic style, Sjöberg's film was an important turning point in Scandinavian cinema. While it may seem a little out of place now, it still has the hypnotic appeal on audiences.

Reviewed by **Intisab Shabriyar**

