



# BAJRANGI BHAIIJAAN

**Director:** Kabir Khan  
**Writers:** Vijayendra Prasad  
**Stars:** Salman Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Harshaali Malhotra  
**Strength:** Story, Acting  
**Weakness:** Long runtime, loose first-half  
**Runtime:** 163 minutes  
**Rating:** 4.5/5

**PLOT:** A young mute girl from Pakistan loses herself in India with no way to head back. A devoted man with a magnanimous spirit undertakes the task to get her back to her motherland and unite her with her family.

**REVIEW:** The film starts off with a Pakistani village household cheering for Pakistan while watching its nail biting

crucial cricket match with India on television. Inspired by the ace Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi, a to-be mother from the household names her daughter as Shahida (Harshaali Malhotra). The girl despite being beautiful and expressive does not speak a word, which worries her parents day after day. While travelling to Delhi, their train halts due to a technical failure and that's where she gets separated from her family. Then she meets the extremely God fearing Bajrangi (Salman Khan). He decides to help her but none of his family stands by him other than his fiancé Rasika (Kareena Kapoor). Pavan decides to brave all the odds and return her back to Pakistan.

Director Kabir Khan captures the attention

of audiences' right from first shot of this character driven film. The impeccable camaraderie between him and his lead star Salman Khan was seen in their last blockbuster film EK THA TIGER. This time round, the camaraderie has grown by leaps and bounds, which can be seen in this film.

As far as the performances are concerned, absolutely no prizes for guessing that the film belongs to the one and only 'Bhaijaan' Salman Khan, who makes no mistakes in delivering an outstanding performance in this film. Kareena Kapoor Khan, on the other hand makes the most out of her screen space and leaves a lasting impression with her endearing performance in the film. And last but not least, the cutie who the internet is

swooning over, Harshaali Malhotra, who is a sheer delight to watch in every frame that she is in. Despite being in her first film, Harshaali comes across as a thorough professional in front of the camera with her innocence, her smile and her superlative performance.

On the whole, this is the first Salman film in a long time that has managed to capture the audience this way. With its breath-taking acting, and captivating story, it is sure to keep earning at the box office and an absolute must watch.

Reviewed by INTISAB SHAHRIYAR

## CLASSIC REVIEW

# MACKENNA'S GOLD

**Director:** J. Lee Thompson  
**Writers:** Heck Allen, Carl Foreman  
**Stars:** Gregory Peck, Omar Sharif, Telly Savalas  
**Runtime:** 128 minutes

**PLOT:** The gangster Colorado kidnaps Marshal MacKenna. He believes that McKenna has seen a map which leads to a rich vein of gold in the mountains and forces him to show him the way. But they're not the only ones who're after the gold; soon they meet a group of "honorable" citizens and the cavalry crosses their way too - and that is even before they enter Indian Territory.

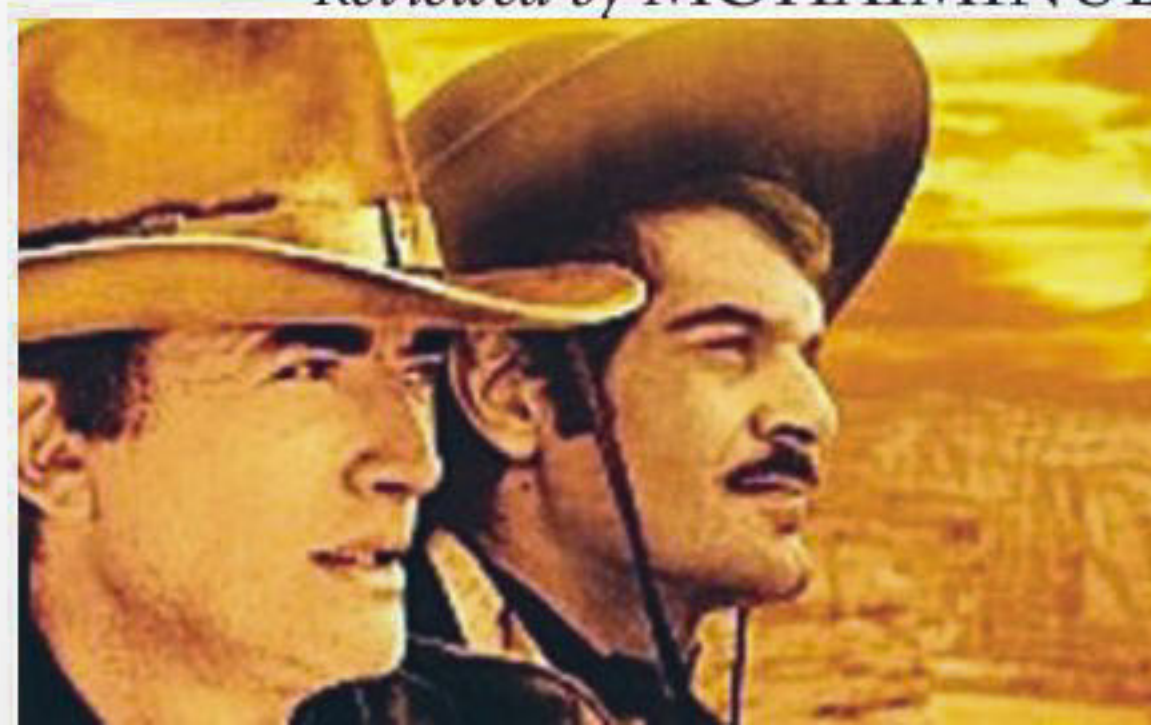
**REVIEW:** Oscar winning lead actor Gregory Peck, from the screen adaptation of Harper Lee's classic "To Kill a Mockingbird", appears in a western classic as Marshal MacKenna in an adventurous journey during the Gold Rush.

The film remains a forgotten western to this day, overshadowed by the likes of High Noon (1952), The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966) and Once Upon a Time in the West (1968), despite the interesting visuals by director J. Lee Thompson, not much seen at that time.

The aerial views of the vast canyons and the POVs of the action sequences set it apart from the scores of western films of that time. The inclusion of the narrator helps in keeping track of the plot through sequences which may seem too rushed and the Grammy nominated score is worthy of its recognition as it seems to harmoniously blend the whole experience to one.

The film may forever remain an unsung western classic, but for viewers appreciating venturesome film making techniques in an Old West setting despite a rather horizontal and clichéd storyline, it is a good one to watch.

Reviewed by MOHAIMINUL



## CHILD 44



**Director:** Daniel Espinosa  
**Writers:** Richard Price, Tom Rob Smith  
**Stars:** Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman, Noomi Rapace  
**Runtime:** 137 minutes  
**Strength:** Story setting. Acting.  
**Weakness:** Missing Thrill. Deviation.  
**Rating:** 2/5

**PLOT:** A disgraced member of the military police investigates a series of nasty child murders during the Stalin-era Soviet Union.

**REVIEW:** Tom Hardy returns in a brooding role of a decorated war hero Leo Demidov, now a member of the Soviet Secret Police, to investigate a serial killer responsible for a series of child murders. The story, adapted from Tom Rob Smith's 2008 Novel, has a brilliant premise and setting with potential beyond many recent movies. The set is all too clichéd with an image of the Soviet Union in which ordinary citizens live in fear of peers and secret

police alike. The toxic atmosphere is present in every aspect of the production, from the smoggy environment to the grime covered decor. After being shipped off with his wife to a remote outpost, we finally meet the other awaited star, Gary Oldman. However, his part is so brief that it begs the question whether his name should even be on the poster (maybe as a guest starring role). The complete "thrill factor" goes missing for half of the film classified as a drama/thriller as the plot follows a rather flat trajectory. The focus shifts too as the story becomes more about overcoming people making obstacles to continue the investigation rather than investigating and solving the mystery itself. The actors deliver solid performances with certain revelations that enrich the characters' back stories later on but that's where the good news stops. The movie ends in utter dismay as it will be apparent to almost all viewers that although it had brilliant potential, it falls short by miles in terms of delivery. Frankly, the Russians are rather fortunate as the screening of the film has been banned there.

Reviewed by MOHAIMINUL ISLAM