



Director: Karan Malhotra
Writers: Gavin O'Connor, Cliff Dorfman
Stars: Akshay Kumar, Jackie Shroff, Siddharth Malhotra
Strength: Incredibly detailed action shots, Acting
Weakness: Slow first half.
Runtime: 156 minutes
Rating: 3/5

PLOT: Two estranged, street-fighting brothers square off against each other in a mixed martial arts tournament.
REVIEW: Gary Fernandes (Jackie) is a prize-fighter married to Maria (Shefali) and have a son, David (Akshay) - and then, Monty (Siddharth), born from

Gary's extra-marital affair, is revealed. When Monty's mother dies, the boy has nowhere to go and so, Maria accepts him into their home. David becomes Monty's protective big brother - but relationships shatter when Gary's drinking causes a tragic accident. The brothers bitterly split - only to face each other in a prize-fight years later.
This film features Akshay Kumar in one of his best roles. He is grimly severe here, using tense muscles and intense silences rather than the Gabbar Is Back-style bombast. With greying hair and soft, sad eyes, Akshay carries Brothers on his shoulders, meriting applause for a vulnerable, memo-

orable performance.
Siddharth Malhotra remains an enigma wrapped in a mystery, with few dialogues and limited expressions. The lack of fire in Siddharth's Monty just doesn't build up a sense of furious clash - instead, it makes the brothers' face-off curiously flat.
By contrast, Jackie Shroff's Gary melodramatically blusters around, first soaked in boozy arrogance, then weeping wretchedness, but neither grips. As David's wife Jenny, Jacqueline's pretty but inconsistent.
The cameos work better. In a brittle little role, Shefali conveys trembling, conflicted emotions while Ashutosh Rana as a cheeky manager and Kiran Kumar, a

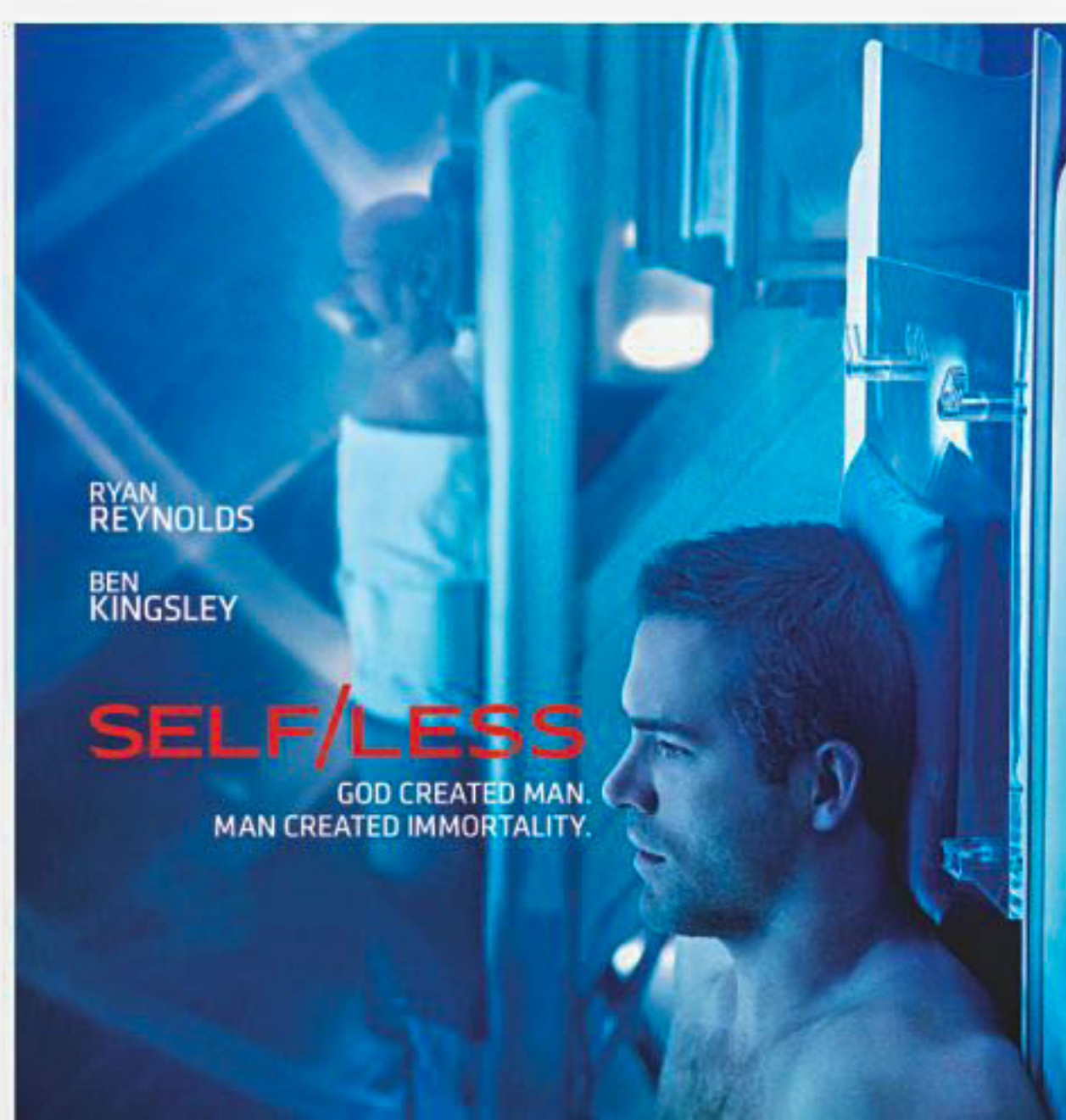
martial arts promoter covered in mystery and cigar smoke, pad this drama well.
On the plus side, Brothers adapts Hollywood hit Warrior with a Bollywood beat. The script builds a powerful contrast between a bleak first half and a lively second. Following brothers-mothers movies like Dewaar, Brothers revisits Bollywood's 'Ma' obsession, offering action, adrenalin and abs too.
However, its angst could have hit a much harder punch - for when blood sours, it explodes. Despite the shortcomings, this is still a good watch.
.....
Reviewed by Intisab Shahriyar

SELF/LESS

Director: Tarsem Singh
Writer: David Pastor, Alex Pastor
Stars: Ryan Reynolds, Natalie Martinez, Matthew Goode
Strengths: Intriguing plot
Weakness: Poor execution
Runtime: 117 minutes
Rating: 2.5/5

PLOT: A dying real estate mogul transfers his consciousness into a healthy young body, but soon finds that neither the procedure nor the company that performed it are quite what they seem.
REVIEW: Damian Hale (Ben Kingsley) is a wealthy businessman who also is haunted by personal dissatisfactions, but he has a more immediate problem: terminal cancer. So when he learns about a scientific institute that can retain his mind but give him a new, healthy body created in a laboratory, he jumps at the chance. Once Damian has been reincarnated, he adjusts slowly but eagerly to his healthy new body, now played by Ryan Reynolds, satisfying his hedonistic appetites. Soon, however, Damian begins to be troubled by mental visions that his handlers assure him are merely hallucinations. But Damian begins to suspect that they are images of events that really happened. Whose past is he remembering? As he searches for answers to the mystery, the organization is desperate to keep him from

learning the truth.
While the movie does have a very interesting premise, it is unfortunately let down by some key errors, one of which includes Ryan's attempt at Kingsley impressions. The effects for the movie weren't very eye catching either. And finally, the ending is just not satisfactory as the movie had quite a nice progress and really didn't deserve an ending like that. Because of these flaws, the movie just couldn't live up to the expectations people had in it.
.....
Reviewed by Intisab Shahriyar



CLASSIC REVIEW

MEN WITHOUT WINGS (1946)

Director: František Čáp.
Writers: Bohumil Štěpánek.
Stars: Gustav Nezval, Ladislav H. Struna, Jaroslav Zrotal.
Runtime: 79 minutes

PLOT: After an attack against the guard of the Third Reich, Nazi repression intensifies, and the Czechoslovakian resistance's organized sabotage in an aircraft factory leads to Gestapo shootings. Now, factory worker Petr Lom (Gustav Nezval) must make a choice: Is he prepared to sacrifice his life to save his co-workers?
REVIEW: A particularly gripping picture, the Czech movie " Muži bez křídel" (Men without wings) is a touching depiction of the Nazi occupation in the then Czechoslovakia (now, Czech Republic). It is a riveting account of the conflicts between local resistances with the Third Reich. The hero of the story with action elements are members of resistance groups who are working in an extremely exposed position at Ruzyně airport. Against them stands a German airport management,

informer and very active maintenance manager Ullmann and the resistance's organized sabotage in the factory leads to the Gestapo shootings.
Directed by Frantisek Cap, this tense Czechoslovakian drama won the Grand Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. It was one of the five films to feature on the big screen on the Nazi occupation theme from the first year of the nationalization of



the Czech film industry and clearly the most popular and successful one given its accolade. A WWII classic coming from a seemingly low key country with a very restricted film industry at the time, it is a fantastic film to watch portraying the endless possibilities of human endeavour.
.....
Reviewed by Mohaiminul Islam