



Director: Kabir Khan
Writers: Hussain Zaidi, Kabir Khan
Stars: Saif Ali Khan, Katrina Kaif, Sabyasachi Chakraborty
Strength: Action sequences
Weakness: Acting from lead performers
Runtime: 136 minutes
Rating: 2/5

PLOT: A disgraced Indian soldier carries out a series of assassinations in the hope of restoring his honour.
REVIEW: Phantom is a fictionalised

account of Daniyal Khan (Saif Ali Khan), an Indian Army officer who's hand-picked to spearhead a covert mission to eliminate the masterminds of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, with the help of a three-member team: two Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) officials Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub and Bengali actor Sabyasachi Chakraborty, the brain behind the mission, and "security agent" Nawaz (Katrina Kaif), who works for an American company that "supplies" arms

to Mujahideens.

For all the high-pitched drama that you would expect from a story as charged as this, Phantom falls flat from the get-go. Not that the script does not try. In fact, it tries a little too hard to build the tempo around events at several points in the film.

Kabir, nonetheless, needs to be lauded for his efforts. He has taken care of several minute details in the movie to ensure that its political impact is not blunt. His sim-

ple message through the film, as we see it, is that India as a country should not bow down to terrorism in the name of diplomatic complexities

The lead actors deliver subpar performances but the supporting characters more than make up for it. Overall, the film is still watchable but if you are expecting a masterpiece then don't hold your breath.

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Reviewed by Intisab Shahriyar

FUN SIZE HORROR VOLUME ONE



Directors: Bryan Chojnowski, Lisa J. Dooley
Writers: Zeke Pinheiro, Michael May
Stars: Lani Akuna, Curtis Andersen, Sheldon Anderson
Strengths: Multiple stories retain scare factor, Acting
Weakness: Dated special effects, Some stories not up to the mark
Runtime: 86 minutes
Rating: 3/5

PLOT: Like a bag of Halloween candy after a night of trick or treating, Fun Size Horror: Volume One delivers an unexpected variety of frightful flavours all told in bite size pieces.

REVIEW: Unlike most horror films which feature one entire story, Fun Size Horror takes a leaf out of the Japanese horror Tales From The Dark's book and creates a movie filled with multiple paranormal stories

affecting very different kinds of people. The stories are quite different as well, encompassing many different paranormal entities, not just the usual ghosts and spirit affair.

Of course when talking about a horror film, we all have only one question to ask; is it scary enough to make you scream like a 10yr old girl? Well, that's a very difficult question to answer when it comes to this film. Sure, some of the stories are scary enough to make you check under your bed ten times before you deem it safe to lie down, while others were put in to simply meet a certain runtime requirement I suspect. The effects in the film are not of the kind we are used to in 2015 but they still get the job done regardless. The direction and editing were all done marvellously. The sound has been given a good importance which always translates into a good immersion for audiences with the movie.

Overall, Fun Size Horror: Volume One is very much a welcomed addition to the anthology based horrors of today. Although a couple of the shorts were a little uneventful, it didn't dampen the overall entertainment value and enjoyment. Fans of everything and anything horror related should check this one out as it's well worth your time. Be sure to keep your eye out for Volume two in the near future.

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Reviewed by Intisab Shahriyar

CLASSIC REVIEW

THE CONVERSATION (1974)

Director: Francis Ford Coppola.
Writers: Francis Ford Coppola.
Stars: Gene Hackman, John Cazale, Allen Garfield.
Runtime: 113 minutes

PLOT: A paranoid, secretive surveillance expert has a crisis of conscience when he suspects that a couple he is spying on will be murdered.

REVIEW: In an amazing creative outburst between 1970 and 1979, Francis Ford Coppola scripted Patton and The Great Gatsby, produced George Lucas's THX-1138 and American Graffiti, and directed the first two Godfather pictures and this masterly chamber film, which brought him his first Palme d'Or (then called the Grand Prix du Festival) at Cannes in 1974 along with three Academy Award Nominations. The Conversation is an immaculate thriller featuring a study in paranoia and loneliness, long in gestation.

The plot revolves around a surveillance expert and the moral dilemma he faces when his record-

ings reveal a potential murder. Coppola cited the 1966 film Blowup as a key influence. However, since the film was released to theaters just a few months before Richard Nixon resigned as President, he felt that audiences interpreted the film to be a reaction to the Watergate scandal. It features one of Gene Hackman's greatest performances as Harry Caul, a San Francisco surveillance expert, a guilt-ridden, intensely private man devoted to anonymity and ethical neutrality. Harry's drawn into the devious lives of those he eavesdrops on and faces moral decisions about his work, delivering a thrilling and acute view into the world of ethical dilemmas of personal and professional scales.

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Reviewed by Mohaiminul Islam

