



Directors: John Francis Daley, Jonathan M. Goldstein
Writers: Jonathan M. Goldstein, John Francis Daley
Stars: Ed Helms, Christina Applegate, Skyler Gisondo
Strengths: Acting, Comedic elements
Weakness: Over-played franchise
Runtime: 99 minutes
Rating: 3/5

PLOT: The Griswold family is back and packing their bags for a trip to The Walley World amusement park.
REVIEW: In 1983's "National Lampoon's Vacation," Chevy Chase played Clark

Griswold, a father determined to drag his family cross-country for a vacation to Walley World. Now we're back to a familiar place and this time with Clark's grown-up son.
Rusty Griswold takes his own family on a road trip to "Walley World" in order to spice things up with his wife and reconnect with his sons. Things go wrong. The family smashes into a cow; they accidentally bathe in excrement; they even set the GPS to scream at them in Korean. Ed Helms does the clueless dad act well and

Christina Applegate is quite amusing as his split-persona wife. Chris Hemsworth shows up as Helms's brother-in-law and, yes, his colossal male extremity gets its share of snickers.
The best surprises come from the back seat of the car. Whereas the original had a brother and sister, this time we've got two boys. The twist is that the younger, prepubescent Kevin (Steele Stebbins) is the alpha, constantly bullying his dopier, sweeter older brother James (Skyler Gisondo). It starts out with name calling,

but leads to some shockingly dark places, such as a repeated gag where Kevin manically tries to smother James with a plastic bag.
At its best, the film is very funny. At its worst, it makes you groan in dismay. For all its scatological obsessions, Vacation is actually a very traditional affair in which family ties are reaffirmed. Somehow, each fresh indignity they suffer brings the Griswolds closer together.
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Reviewed by Intisab Shahriyar

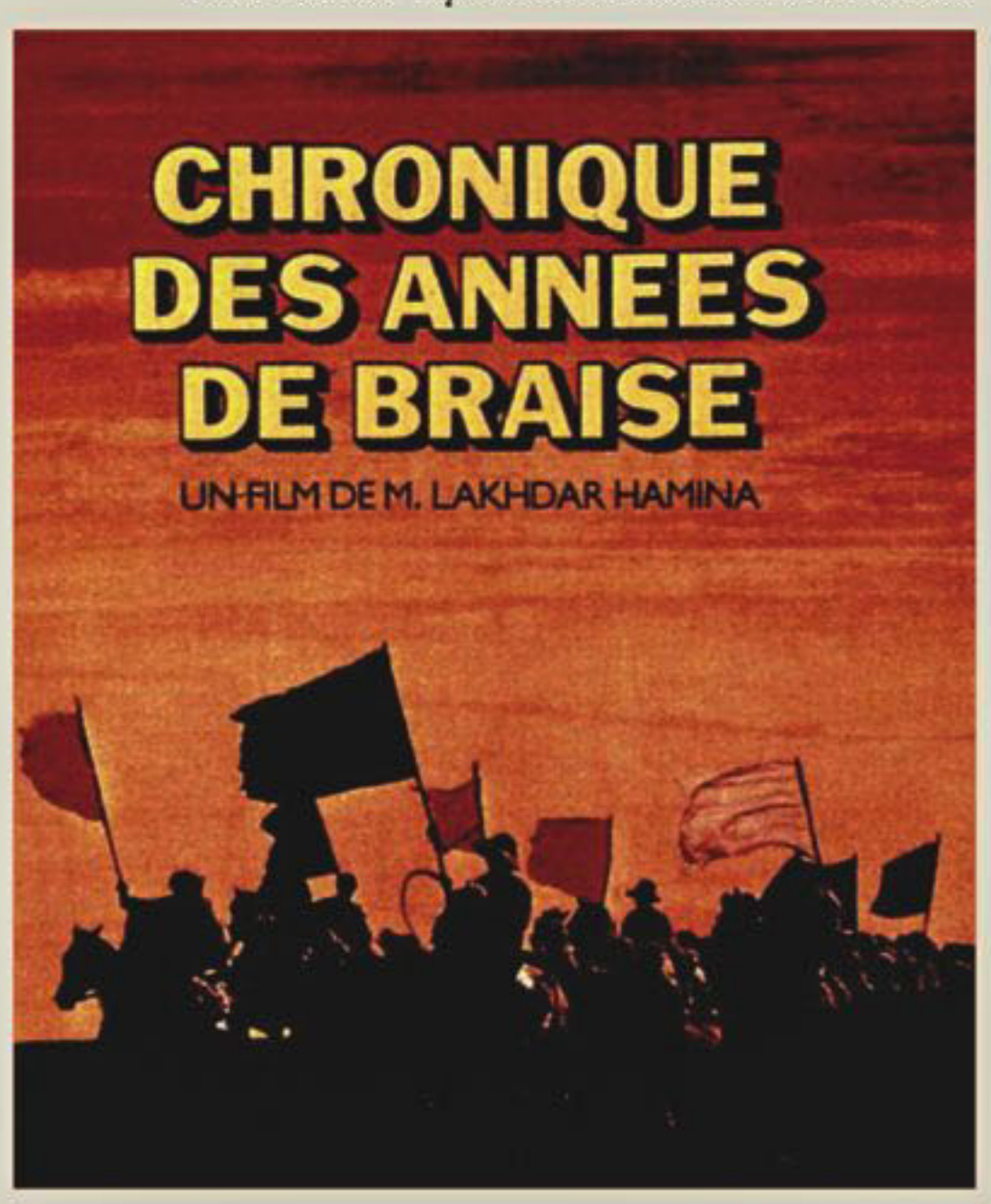
CLASSIC REVIEW

Chronicle of the Years of Fire (1975)

Director: Mohammed Lakhdar-Hamina
Writers: Rachid Boudjedra, Tewfik Fares.
Stars: Yorgo Voyagis, Mohammed Lakhdar-Hamina, Leila Shenna.
Runtime: 177 minutes

PLOT: The beginnings of the Algerian Revolution as seen through the eyes of a peasant.
REVIEW: Despite winning the Palme d'Or at the 1975 Cannes Film Festival, this film remains largely unseen and unheard of, partly owing to its long running time of nearly three-hours, its strong political bent, and it's sweeping, often fragmented narrative; which combine to make it a hard sell. However, underneath its overt political exterior and its epic ambitions, there is a delicate personal story to be found. The film relays the tragedy of colonialism, through the eyes of those affected the most; the common citizen. Through the course of the film which spans between the beginning of the Second World War to the start of the Algerian Revolution; we witness the humble farmer Ahmad go through difficult times, each one more brutal and tragic than the other, and we see that it's not necessarily radical religion or oppressive

politics that give rise to revolution, but a much simpler explanation, that of just trying to survive.
Chronicle, is an extraordinary film. One whose message remains just as important and relevant now as ever and it's a shame that it has been neglected for so long. It's the perfect companion piece, heck almost a prequel, to The Battle of Algiers, and is just begging for a digital restoration. Hopefully some brave distributor will give it the treatment it deserves.
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Reviewed by Mohaiminul Islam



Director: Luv Ranjan
Writers: Luv Ranjan, Rahul Mody
Stars: Sunny Singh Nijjar, Sonalli Sehgal, Kartik Aaryan
Strength: Acting, Comedic elements
Weakness: Similar plot as the original
Runtime: 137 minutes
Rating: 4/5

PLOT: After falling in love, three roommates experience changes in their lives.
REVIEW: From a quirky take on the government advertisement against the use of tobacco to silly and stereotypical portrayal of women, Pyar Ka PUNCHNAMA 2 offers everything you have said during that boys' night with your friends. While the first film was panned by critics as misogynist, the story of three boys just out of college making a fool of themselves at love was an instant hit and Rajjo's (Kartik Aaryan) monologue towards the end remains one of the oft-quoted dialogues by men when they want to blow steam about women.
Much like the first film, Pyaar Ka PUNCHNAMA 2 traces the love life of three men who are foolish enough to fall prey to three women who take advantage of them.
Once again, the three men who are well-settled in their jobs fall in love with three seemingly different kinds of women only to be ditched by them in various ways. It is, however, a tightly-knit story with the perfect dialogues for a comedy film that leaves the audiences gasping for breath. For those waiting for the epic monologue by Rajjo (Kartik who is now called Gogo), there is a longer, more real and funnier version of it.
The story, as well as the plot twists, is almost similar to the first film. Instead of making a sequel, they could have simply shown the same three boys four years ahead in life instead of making them into new characters. The boys effortlessly depict what men often discuss during boys' talk and the girls play their characters as manipulative women quite convincingly.
For those who watched the original, it may feel a little strained but it's still worth a watch and for those who haven't seen the original at all, watch it now.
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Reviewed by Intisab Shahriyar