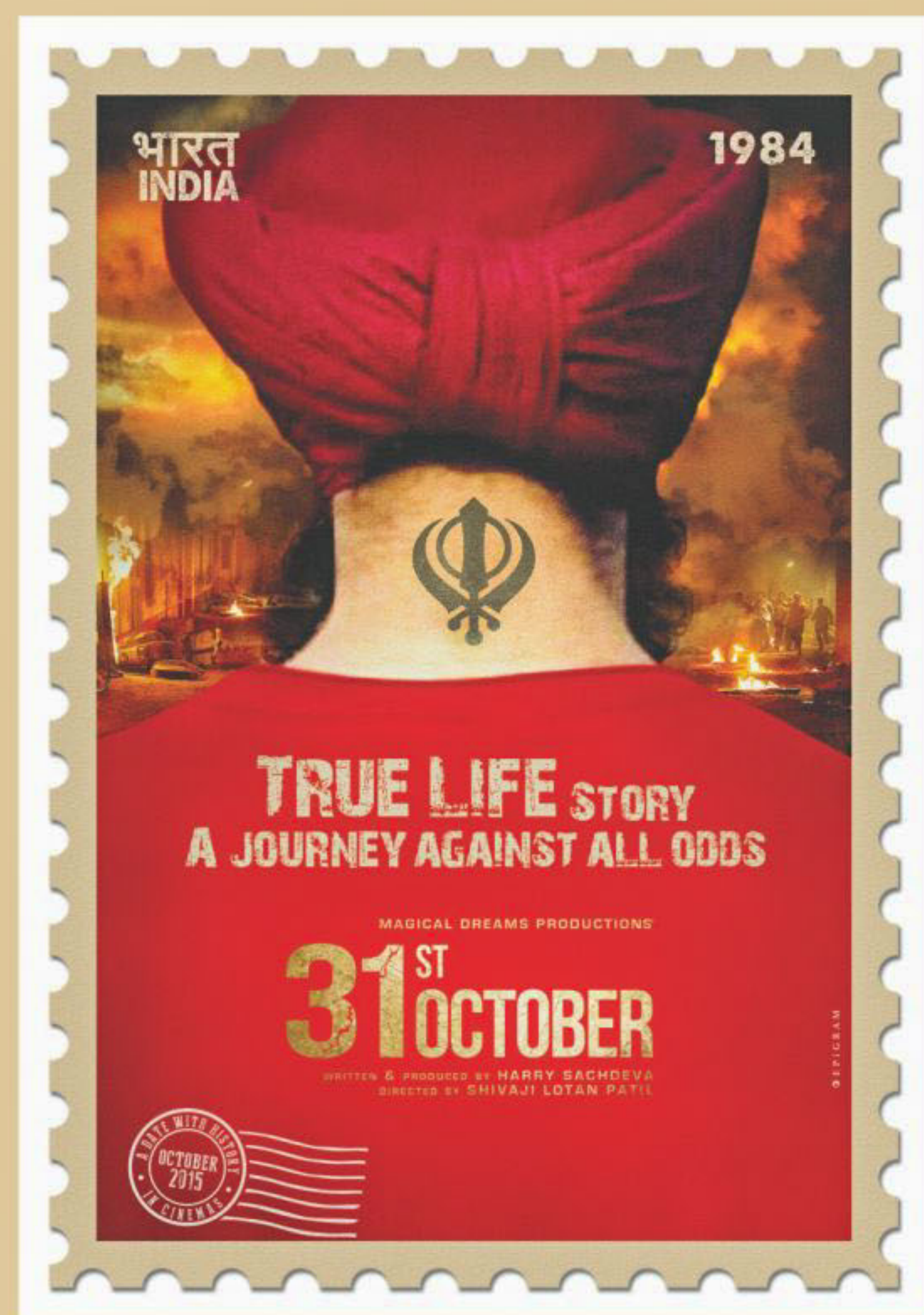


31ST OCTOBER

Director: Shivaji Lotan Patil
Writers: Harry Sachdeva, Harry Sachdeva
Cast: Soha Ali Khan, Nagesh Bhonsle, Vir Das
Strength: Acting, Story
Weakness: A bit too serious
Runtime: 109 minutes
Rating: 3/5

PLOT: A thriller about a Sikh family trapped in a riot-affected part of Delhi during the anti-Sikh riots following Indira Gandhi's assassination.
REVIEW: "31st October" is all about the aftermath of the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her two Sikh security guards in October 1984 due to which riots across the nation broke in targeting and killing hundreds of Sikhs in Delhi and other places across India by mobs.

Devender Singh (Vir Das), his wife Tejinder Kaur (Soha Ali Khan) and family members get stuck in their house as their city plummets following the public hatred towards the Sikhs. Pal,



Tilak, and Yogesh travel to save Devender's family. However, they come face-to-face with the destruction of humanity as they witness the carnage and the moral corruption that makes men turn into savages. In their attempt of ferrying Devender's family to safety, Pal, Tilak, and Yogesh must first face their own demons.

Soha Ali does a great job of portraying her character as she manages to bring out the emotions required to display the horrors of that time. Vir Das, who is mostly known for his comic persona, has fitted himself into the role of a father who is battling with his health and also tries to protect his children from the hurdles to great success.

The film serves as a strong social message that nothing can be achieved through violence and that one should appreciate and respect each other, message that rings very true these days. It's a must watch.

Reviewed By Intisab Shahriyar



HITMAN: AGENT 47

Director: Aleksander Bach
Writers: Skip Woods, Michael Finch
Stars: Rupert Friend, Hannah Ware, Zachary Quinto
Strengths: Action sequences, Acting, Story
Weakness: Not for all audiences due to the violence
Runtime: 96 minutes
Rating: 4/5

PLOT: An assassin teams up with a woman to help her find her father and uncover the mysteries of her ancestry.

REVIEW: Hitman: Agent 47 centres on an elite assassin who was genetically engineered from conception to be the perfect killing machine, and is known only by the last two digits on the barcode tattooed on the back of his neck. He is the culmination of decades of research and forty-six earlier Agent clones -- endowing him with unprecedented

strength, speed, stamina and intelligence. His latest target is a mega-corporation that plans to unlock the secret of Agent 47's past to create an army of killers whose powers surpass even his own. Teaming up with a young woman who may hold the secret to overcoming their powerful and clandestine enemies, 47 confronts stunning revelations about his own origins and squares off in an epic battle with his deadliest foe.

Hitman was always a difficult subject to portray to the big screen. How do you make a case for a remorseless killer for hire? The game franchise, on which it is based, doesn't have many issues regarding this premise as gamers want less babble and more action. So to make 47 interesting to movie goers, filmmakers decided upon injecting a bit of drama into the mix. The result

was the first Hitman film back in 2007. While that wasn't bad per se, it just didn't capture the essence of the Hitman. The lead was poorly chosen and the story was even more flimsy. The new film however addresses a lot of these issues. The casting of Rupert Friend as the titular character was a stroke of genius as he managed to portray the empty yet menacing look of the Agent 47. While some drama has been injected into this as well, it was kept in perfect balance with the mood of the film. The action sequences and kill scenes are also a perfect homage to the games. It's made in a way so that even people unfamiliar to the franchise won't feel out of the loop. In short, this new Hitman remains very faithful to the game franchise and still makes for an excellent movie.

Reviewed by Intisab Shahriyar

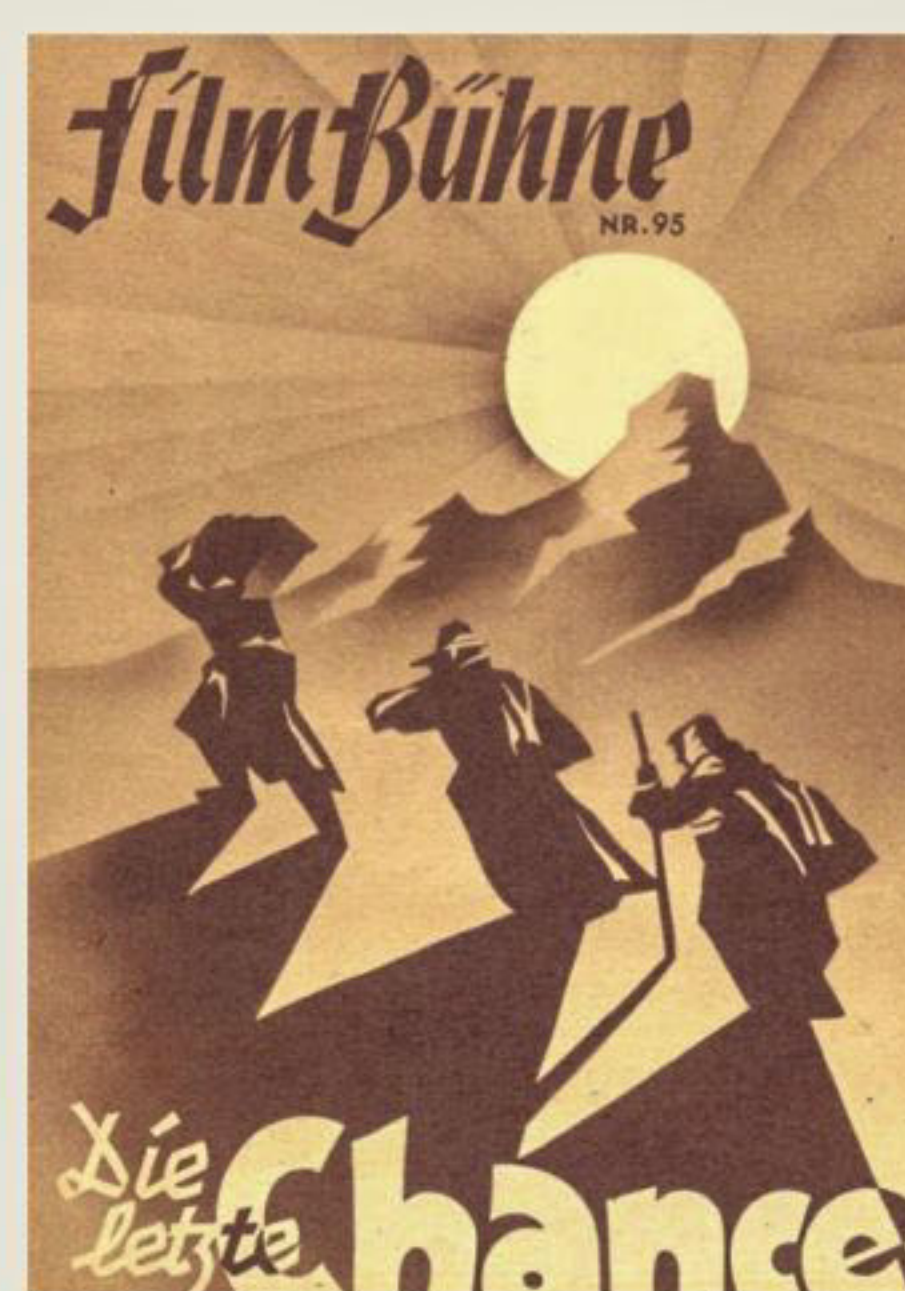
CLASSIC REVIEW

THE LAST CHANCE (1945)

Director: Leopold Lindtberg
Writers: Alberto Barberis, Elizabeth Montagu
Stars: Ewart G. Morrison, John Hoy, Ray Reagan
Runtime: 104 minutes

PLOT: Escaping a Nazi prison train in war-torn Italy, an American and a British soldier set out for the Swiss border and find themselves leading a multinational party of refugees for the Italian underground.

REVIEW: It tells of two Allied prisoners, an English and an American, who escape from a train in northern Italy, make their way toward the Swiss frontier and, just a few miles from their objective, become involved in a vital enterprise. For there, in a small Italian village—and through the offices of a daring priest—they fall in with another British officer and a group of



refugees determined to get to Switzerland.

Plainly, the directness and simplicity of the semi-documentary account, the sharp photographic fidelity and the honesty of performance of the cast—some members of which

were recruited from untrained actors—are responsible elements. John Hoy and E. G. Morrison are excellent as the British officers and Ray Reagan, an American airman who was interned in Switzerland, represents his country well. Romano Calo is particularly notable as the priest among the cast of characters, which embraces many types and nationalities. English, Italian and a bit of German and French are spoken naturally throughout the picture—which heightens the verisimilitude.

Produced in Switzerland against the natural, impressive background of mountains and Piedmont country, the director deserves commendation from those who delight in seeing pictures truthfully and earnestly made.

Reviewed by Mohaiminul Islam