



THE HUNGER GAMES MOCKINGJAY - PART 2

Director: Francis Lawrence
Writers: Peter Craig, Danny Strong
Stars: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth
Strengths: Action Sequences, Acting
Weakness: Story, Unnecessarily lengthy
Runtime: 137 minutes
Rating: 3/5

PLOT: As the war of Panem escalates to the destruction of other districts by the Capitol, Katniss Everdeen must bring together an army against President Snow, while all she holds dear hangs in the balance.

REVIEW: As Part 2 begins, its heroine seems to have lost her voice. At the end of Mockingjay - Part 1, having already survived two separate rounds of forced gladiatorial combat, reluctant rebel Katniss Everdeen was nearly killed by her Games partner Peeta Mellark, who had been brainwashed to see Katniss as an enemy by Dictator President Snow. Katniss' silence is troubling, given how she's become the public face of the rebellion against Snow, responsible for stirring up the oppressed citizens of Panem with her impassioned, impromptu speeches. But Part 2 quickly moves on to the more

symbolic ways she's being silenced, as rebel organizer Alma Coin and public relations mastermind Plutarch Heavensbee repeatedly attempt to confine and constrain her, to control the message they're sending to the rebels.

Pulling a franchise into more films than necessary really shows with this film unfortunately. Films that have to span more than 2 sequels has to bring in something new, or unique than its predecessors and I am sorry to say but Part 2 hasn't been able to achieve it. In my opinion, they shouldn't have stretched Mockingjay into two parts and had rather tied it all up

in one film. That would have saved the story and made for a more fitting ending. Performances were all top-notch, but it's easy to see that Jennifer Lawrence has grown out of this role long ago as she is a more accomplished and serious actor.

In short, this is a successful finale to The Hunger Games franchise, but an unsuccessful film. I doubt even hard-core fans of the series would enjoy it as much as they did the previous entries. Watch it only if you have seen the previous films and need that closure.

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Reviewed by Intisab Shahriyar

CLASSIC REVIEW

La Symphonie Pastorale (1946)

Director: Jean Delannoy.
Writers: André Gide, Jean Aurenche, Jean Delannoy.
Stars: Pierre Blanchar, Michèle Morgan, Line Noro.
Runtime: 110 minutes



Plot: A minister falls in love with a blind young woman he sheltered, but so does his son.
Review: The story is of a man of God, who takes a poor blind orphan into his modest home. Slowly, as he teaches and assists this pathetic girl, his affections and spiritual attachments become deeply locked with hers, so that he is completely unconscious of the selfishness of his love when his own son becomes a rival and the girl's life-long blindness is cured.
 Not without reason is this story called a "pastoral symphony." It has the expansion and development of a carefully scored musical work. Out of a situation and a group of people, a complexity evolves; it

has volume, color, rhythm and extensive overtones. It grows with inexorable logic, accumulating dramatic power, and crashes to a climax of inevitable irony.
 As the blind girl, Miss Morgan's performance is an exquisite piece of art—tender, proud, and piteous in its comprehension of the feelings of the blind—and Mr. Blanchar's incisive revelations of the pastor's soft and righteous moods are subtle but sure indications of one of the most difficult characters ever shown on the screen.

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Reviewed by Mohaiminul Islam

PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO

Director: Sooraj R. Barjatya
Writers: Sooraj R. Barjatya, Aash Karan Atal
Cast: Salman Khan, Sonam Kapoor, Anupam Kher
Strength: Acting, Story
Weakness: Poor Direction, Screenplay
Runtime: 164 minutes
Rating: 2.5/5

PLOT: While recovering from an assassination attempt four days before his coronation, a stern prince is replaced by a heartfelt lookalike.
REVIEW: Straight from the start, Prem Ratan Dhan Payo is Salman Khan's triumph. He simply blows the top off the theatres with a double role that makes audiences laugh, gasp, sigh - and cry.

Prem Dilwale, Ayodhya's Ram Leela artist, admires Princess Maithili and her charitable work. Prem decides to meet Maithili at the coronation of her fiancé Prince Vijay in Pritampur. But Vijay's fallen prey to a conspiracy by his wicked brother Ajay and relative Chirag. As Vijay suffers their violent assault, Pritampur's Diwan asks Prem to play Vijay's part - and protect Maithili.

Salman performs with superb finesse. His Vijay is tense, terse and taut, radiating machismo but no gentleness, loneliness with king-sized ego. His Prem is luminous with life, cheekily cheery - teasing Diwanji as 'virgin Babu' - then deepening, in silent gazes of hesitant love.

Sonam carries off her role as a princess beautifully, a stylish cross between Gayatri Devi and Coco Chanel, conveying a girl wrapped in delicate chiffon, but with a free, passionate soul.

It is obvious that Sooraj R. Barjatya has spared no expense or effort in erecting the ornate sets and designing the unabashedly garish look of Prem Ratan Dhan Payo. But one crucial aspect of the film that would have cost little or no money but taken far greater effort – the screenplay – is completely neglected. As a result, this film is told in an old-fashioned, overly melodramatic style that simply does not work in this day and age. Despite this though, Prem Ratan Dhan Payo is still the perfect entertainer for the entire family.

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Reviewed By Intisab Shahriyar

