



HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky
Writers: Robert Smigel, Adam Sandler
Stars: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez
Strengths: Fitting Sequel, Story
Weakness: Soundtrack
Runtime: 89 minutes
Rating: 4.5/5

PLOT: Dracula and his friends try to bring out the monster in his half human, half vampire grandson in order to keep his daughter Mavis from leaving the hotel.
REVIEW: The film picks up right where

the first left off, Mavis and Johnny getting ready to be married. Soon after, the movie skips a few years to show the birth of their first child, Dennis, which raises tension between Count Dracula and Mavis as to whether Dennis is human or vampire, as the former would mean that they would have to leave the hotel and live with humans. In desperation, the count does everything in his power to make sure Dennis is indeed vampire and that no one has to move, and this pretty much makes up the rest of the film.

The first film wasn't expected to be that big, but it managed to become quite a success, leading to the makers to decide on making this franchise into a trilogy and a planned TV series as well. Now, there was a bit of apprehension of whether the sequel would be as good as the original as in most cases where a sequel is belted out for the sake of popularity, it ends up an unmitigated disaster. I am happy to report that such is not the case with this film. There is a proper story in place that meshes perfectly with the

original and actually takes the story forward in a meaningful way. The voice acting is also done to perfection, and the animation is as always, fantastic. It's really hard to find fault with this film, but if we were to nit-pick, I would have to say that I was a bit disappointed with the soundtrack, considering how catchy the original's was. Other than this small niggle though, it's a perfectly brilliant film and it's a great one to watch with the family.

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Reviewed by Intisab Shahriyar

CLASSIC REVIEW

MARTY (1955)

Director: Delbert Mann.
Writers: Paddy Chayefsky.
Stars: Ernest Borgnine, Betsy Blair, Esther Minciotti.
Runtime: 90 minutes

PLOT: A middle-aged butcher and a school teacher who has given up on the idea of love, meet at a dance and fall in love.

REVIEW: This neat little character study of a lonely fellow and a lonely girl who find each other in the prowling mob at a Bronx dance hall and get together despite their families and their friends was originally done as a TV drama, and its present transposition to the screen has been accomplished by its TV director, Delbert Mann, as his first film achievement.

The transfer is well worth a tribute, for "Marty" makes a warm and winning film, full of the sort of candid comment on plain, drab people that seldom reaches the screen. Ernest Borgnine as the fellow and Betsy Blair

as the girl—not to mention three or four others — give performances that burn into the mind. Except for a rather sudden ending that leaves a couple of threads untied and the emotional climax not quite played out, it is a trim and rewarding show. With all the others they present a dandy study in this Harold Hecht-Burt Lancaster film.

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Reviewed by Mohaiminul Islam



THE SILENT HEROES

Director: Mahesh Bhatt
Writer: Mahesh Bhatt
Cast: Mann Bagga, Gurfareen Bano, Maanuv Bharadwaj
Strength: Great human interest story
Weakness: Direction, Acting
Runtime: 115 minutes
Rating: 3.5/5

PLOT: The story of 13 deaf children and their heroism, passion and humanity.

REVIEW: First thing first. The director is not to be confused with the Mahesh Bhatt. The man behind The Silent Heroes is a newbie. As the story revolves around its 13 mute artistes, we are constantly shown how people are hostile to them. This villainous vein looks like a gimmick. The film also should've ideally avoided playing the sympathy card from the first frame. It shows how as a society our psyche forces us to pity the underprivileged. Characters who emphatically reprimand people for referring to them as disabled try to even out the flaws but don't quite manage it. Also, it is a shame that we are told nothing about our 'heroes'. The 13 children are an amorphous mass and there is no effort to portray them as individuals with distinct

identities and unique struggles.

The film's story shows promise but its tawdry execution is a problem. It is unpardonable that the actors in this film are either overacting or sleepwalking through their roles. Thankfully its leads - Maanuv Bharadwaj and Priyanka Panchaal are watchable but the same doesn't stand true for the other actors who reduce their characters to caricatures.



The technical drawbacks and logic lapses further weakens in the narrative. Additionally, the film's tone is too flat and though enough drama unfolds on screen, it never really touches you. In short, The Silent Heroes is a perfect example of how being myopic can play down noble intentions.

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Reviewed By Intisab Shahriyar