

THE INTERN

Director: Nancy Meyers
Writer: Nancy Meyers
Stars: Robert De Niro, Anne Hathaway, Rene Russo
Strength: Story, Humour
Weakness: Acting from supporting actors
Runtime: 121 minutes
Rating: 4/5

PLOT: 70-year-old widower Ben Whittaker has discovered that retirement isn't all it's cracked up to be. Seizing an opportunity to get back in the game, he becomes a senior intern at an online fashion site, founded and run by Jules Ostin.

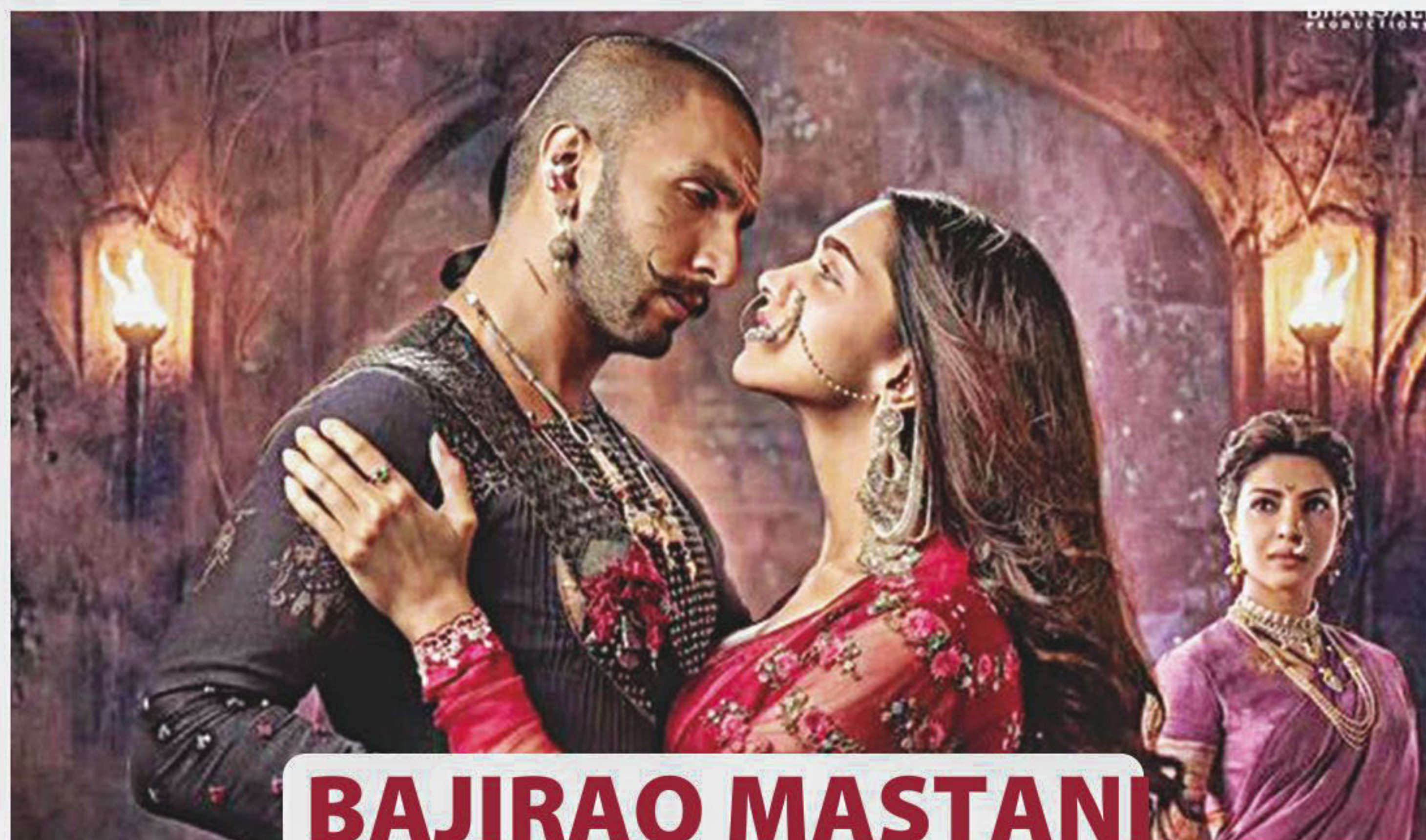
REVIEW: If you are reading the plot as we speak and forming a picture in your head; yes it's exactly as funny as you think it is. The story follows widower Ben Whittaker who is desperate to kill time and inadvertently discovers an offer for internship



at a fashion site and applies immediately. After some comical interviews, he is accepted and is assigned to the boss of the company, who was unwilling to go along with it at first. But Ben doesn't give up and soon manages to become the most popular employee of the office. Through his observant nature and lifetime experience, he soon becomes a trusted confidant of Jules and starts to ease her workload and offer insight into her life.

De Niro pulls off his character absolutely perfectly; constantly bringing to mind his outings in Meet the Parents franchise. He is the perfect mixture of sensitive and hilarious. Small wonder he is considered one of the all-time greats. Anne Hathaway delivers an absolutely stunning performance as well, properly demonstrating the struggle of women with high power careers and a household to maintain as well. The same can't be said for the supporting cast however as you could easily see some of them acting too much or too little. The story is also top-notch and a fresh look at an already existing concept of fitting in a workplace. This movie is an absolute must watch for any De Niro or Hathaway or comedy lovers in general.

Reviewed by Intisab Shahriyar



BAJIRAO MASTANI

Director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali
Writers: Nagnath S. Inamdar, Sanjay Leela Bhansali
Stars: Priyanka Chopra, Deepika Padukone, Irrfan Khan
Strength: Direction, Visuals
Weakness: Shaky first-half
Runtime: 158 minutes
Rating: 4/5

PLOT: The tale of romance between an Indian general Bajirao and Mastani, a Muslim princess.

REVIEW: Peshwa Bajirao (Ranveer) stretches the Maratha Empire across 18th century India, fighting Mughals and rivals for Chhatrapati Shahu (Mahesh). Suddenly, Bundelkhand requests protection, Bajirao approached by its half-Muslim princess Mastani (Deepika).

As Bajirao-Mastani fall in love, how does his wife Kashibai (Priyanka) react? And can Bajirao-Mastani battle the bitter opposition they face?

Bajirao Mastani's most outstanding star is its cinematography. Every visual scene resembles a grand painting - courts with shadows and chandeliers, chambers gleaming with mirrors, skies blushing with passion. Certain shots like Bajirao leaping up an elephant easily stamp themselves onto memory.

The movie's battle scenes are grand and complex while its family battles led mostly by Bajirao's Ma Sahab and brother Chimaji are harsh and intense. With his faithful friend Ambaji (Milind) and bitter rival Pratinidhi (Aditya), the story takes great twists and turns like Bajirao's Shaniwar Wada palace, where corridors resound with whispers, and courtyards with clashing tempers and swords.

Ranveer pulls off Bajirao with a finely chiselled physique and glittering eyes, balancing vulnerability and vivaciousness. By comparison, Deepika's Mastani remains muted - her dark eyes drunk on love can be observed sometimes, as well as the fire of a fighter-princess, but the full-blown passion of this lead pair is missing. In contrast, Priyanka impresses as the quiet Kashi who conveys the sorrow of a wife, a lover, a friend, forgotten.

The end is magnificent. The first half is slightly shaky but the second half absolutely mesmerizes. Post-interval, Bhansali imbues every frame with epic, precise passion. His question "What should religion do? Tear us to bits? Or bring us closer?" brings forward a very important issue with deep philosophical roots. A brilliant movie and easily recommended.

Reviewed By Intisab Shahriyar

CLASSIC REVIEW

THE SILENT WORLD (1956)

Director: Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Louis Malle.
Writers: Jacques-Yves Cousteau.
Stars: Frédéric Dumas, Albert Falco, Jacques-Yves Cousteau.
Runtime: 86 minutes

PLOT: This pioneering nature documentary investigates aquatic habitats in various locations around the world. It doesn't shy away from the brutality present in the natural world, but it also paints a fascinating picture of underwater exploration.

REVIEW: People who dote on adventures at sea are in for an hour and twenty-six minutes of pictorial marvels and thrills when they see this film. Capt. Jacques-Yves Cousteau's "The Silent World", is an account of oceanographic exploration on and below the surface of the sea is surely the most beautiful and fascinating documentary of its sort ever filmed.



With a sense of amazement, and with remarkable technical skill in surface and underwater exploration and colour photography, Cousteau and his team of skin-divers have produced a marine adventure film that combines the experience of looking at marvels with a wonderful intimacy. They have put the personnel of their research ship, the Calypso, as it ranges the Mediterranean and Red Seas, the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, in contact with the creatures of the deep in such a way as to make the contrasts much more striking and wonderful than would be the mere fascinations if they were simply viewed objectively.

Reviewed by Mohaiminul Islam