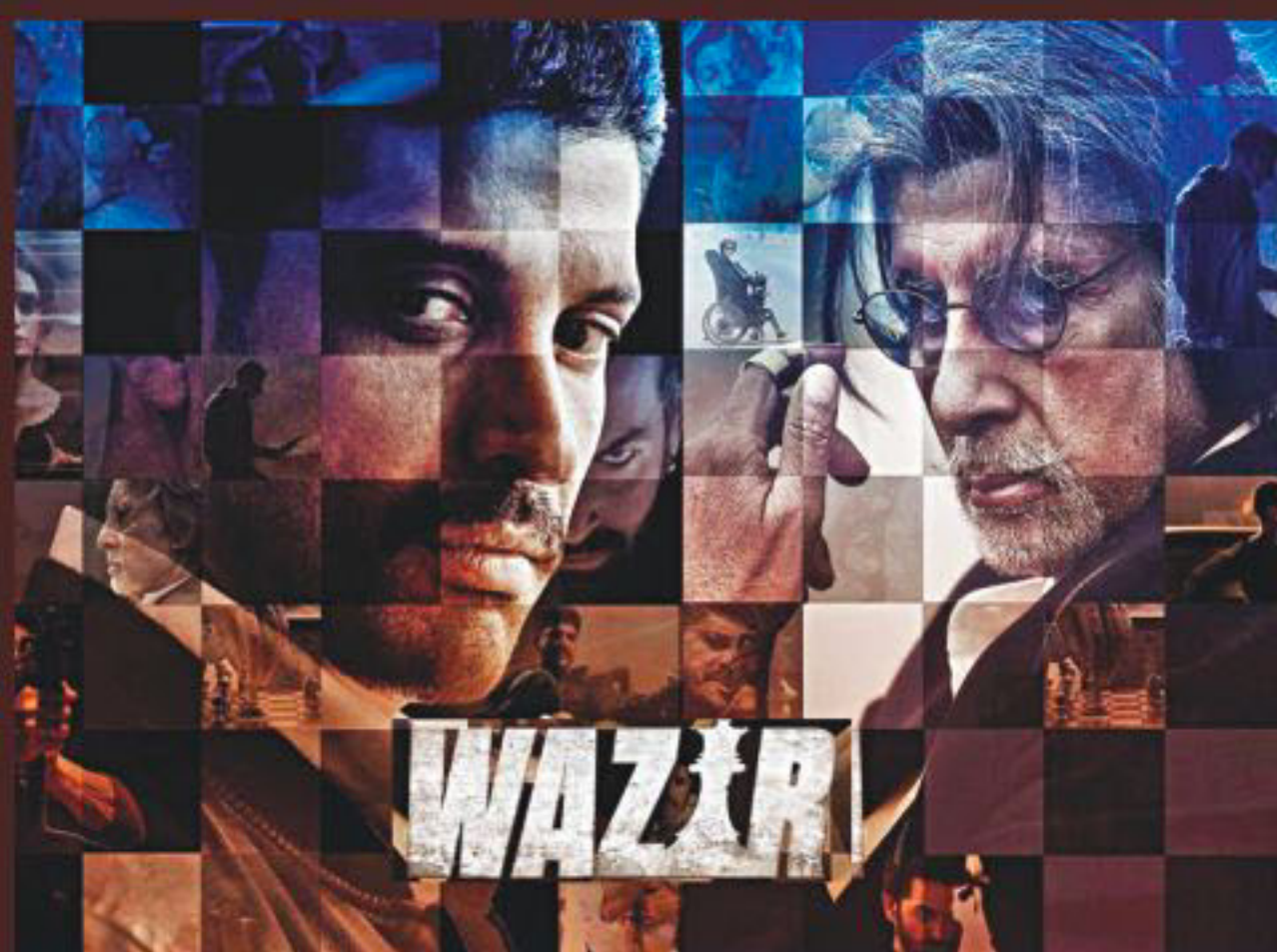


Wazir (2016)

Director: Bejoy Nambiar
Writers: Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Vidhu Vinod Chopra
Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Farhan Akhtar, Aditi Rao Hydari
Strength: Acting, Action
Weakness: Direction, Story
Runtime: 102 minutes
Rating: 2.5/5

PLOT: A grief-stricken cop and amputee grandmaster are brought together by a peculiar twist of fate as part of a wider conspiracy that has darkened their lives.
REVIEW: Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) officer Daanish Ali (Farhan) loses his daughter while chasing terrorists. His anguished wife Roothana (Aditi) blames Daanish, who's about to kill himself in guilt-laden grief. Suddenly, he meets wheelchair-bound Pandit Omkar Nath Dhar (Amitabh), who teaches Daanish about chess, life, love - and revenge. Panditji's own tragic tale leads Daanish to investigate Welfare Minister Qureishi (Manav) - and then chase him furiously when brutal assassin Wazir (Neil) attacks Pandit Dhar.



Wazir is held together by Amitabh Bachchan who shows why he is the Grandmaster of this game. With sly glances and shy smiles, wry jokes and escaped tears, Amitabh carves a character, mesmerising you as he does Daanish, very competently played by Farhan who delivers intensity and gentleness. As pashmina-smooth politician Qureishi, Manav Kaul performs very admirably, adding to the movie's tension, its eerie quality, and its things that go bang in the dark.

With too many distractions - Aditi looks lovely but is constrained in a chiffon-clad role featuring more dancing than dialogues - the plot loses pace. When the movie picks up speed - action sequences in Delhi and Srinagar are terrific - you're on a gritty edge. But when it over-indulges itself - its writers and editors are the same - the game slips into stalemate. It's a pity because Wazir's lead performances, its glassy cinematography, its haunting sound design, work well. What this game needed was more attack, less defence, less repetition, more relentlessness.

Reviewed By Intisab Shahriyar



BRIDGE OF SPIES

Director: Steven Spielberg
Writers: Matt Charman, Ethan Coen
Stars: Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance, Alan Alda
Strengths: Acting, Direction
Weakness: Slow pace, Long runtime
Runtime: 142 minutes
Rating: 3.5/5

Plot: During the Cold War, an American lawyer is recruited to defend an arrested Soviet spy in court, and then help the CIA facilitate an exchange of the spy for the Soviet captured American U2 spy plane pilot, Francis Gary Powers.
Review: If you were expecting a fast-paced movie about spies and dramatic courtroom battles, then this movie is not for you. In fact, many people were completely unprepared for the pace this film takes into

telling its story, knowing that the Spielberg moniker is on this film, which is usually a by-word for faster paced storytelling. The story is set during the height of the Cold War between the Soviets and the Americans. Back then, information was the name of the game and whoever learned more about the other would become the victor and so they employed spies on both sides to collect information. The film starts with the capture of Soviet spy Rudolf Abel. To give the portrayal of a fair trial, insurance lawyer James Donovan is hired to represent him. However, he takes his client seriously and starts to properly defend him and as such, garner the hate of the entire nation. While all this was going on,

American pilot Francis Gary Powers was flying over Soviet space and is shot down and captured. Meanwhile, American economics student Frederic Pryor is wrongfully captured by the East Germans during the formation of the Berlin wall. The ensuing drama makes up the rest of the film. The film is based on a true story, so there was very little scope for the makers to add explosions and glitter wherever they saw fit. For a true story though, they did a marvellous job of bringing such an important event in history to the modern age. Acting was brilliant and so was the direction. While the pace is quite slow, the movie is still top-notch.

Reviewed by Intisab Shahriyar

CLASSIC REVIEW

BLACK ORPHEUS (1959)

Director: Marcel Camus
Writers: Marcel Camus, Jacques Viot
Stars: Breno Mello, Marpessa Dawn, Lourdes de Oliveira
Runtime: 100 minutes

PLOT: A retelling of the Orpheus and Eurydice myth, set during the time of the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro.
REVIEW: Frenchman Marcel Camus presents us a melancholy tale in his colour film, "Black Orpheus" ("Orfeu Negro"). A tragic story of a man and a woman, who meet at the time of the annual blowout, fall rapturously in love, whirl through the night in a furious revel and fall off a cliff in the dawn. At least, the fellow falls off the cliff, holding the dead body of the girl in his arms. She has been killed the

previous evening while trying to escape a scoundrel in a skeleton costume. The samba drama is supposed to be based on the classic legend of Orpheus and Eurydice. Some parallels may be detected, but to us this seems an innocent conceit, unless you want to claim all sad love stories come from the same original source. But it really is not the two lovers that are the focus of this film; it is the music, the movement, the storm of colour that goes into the two-day festival. M. Camus has done a superb job of getting the documented look not only of the over-all fandango but also of the build-up of momentum.

Reviewed by Mohaiminul Islam

