

MACBETH

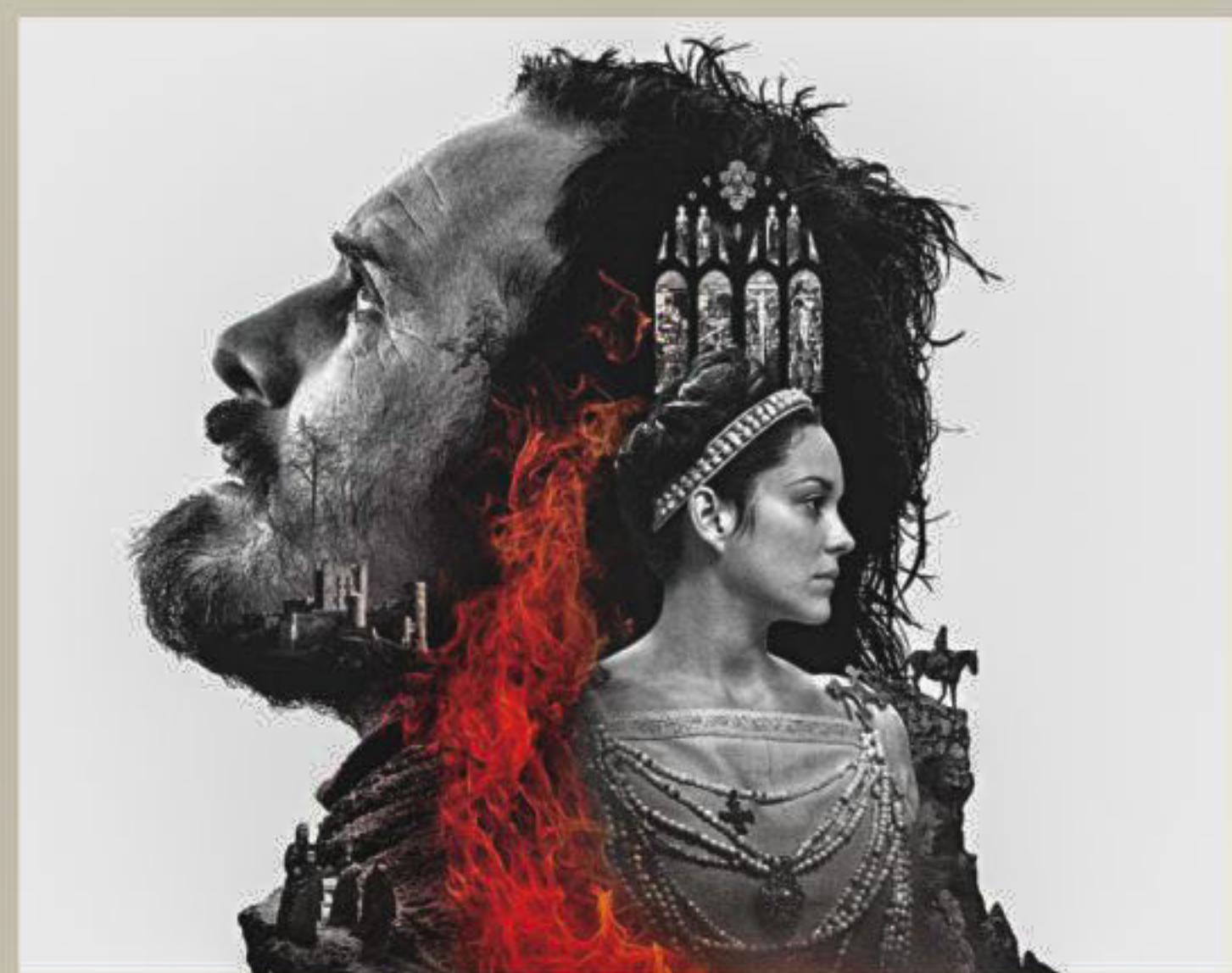
Director: Justin Kurzel
Writers: Jacob Koskoff, Michael Lesslie
Stars: Michael Fassbender, Marion Cotillard, Jack Madigan
Strengths: Acting, Cinematography
Weakness: Violent Scenes, A bit cerebral
Runtime: 113 minutes
Rating: 4/5

PLOT: Macbeth, the Thane of Glamis, receives a prophecy from a trio of witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition and spurred to action by his wife, Macbeth murders his king and takes the throne for himself.

REVIEW: There have been many adaptations of Shakespeare's Macbeth so what, you may ask, is all the fuss with this new one. Plenty really, but we will gloss over that later.

The story is a near complete recreation of Shakespeare's iconic play. However, there are minor bits and pieces missing, but that really doesn't take anything away from the story. Also, in almost all renditions of the Macbeths, they are portrayed as ambitious or power-hungry. In this film though, they are portrayed as damaged because the very first scene shows Macbeth laying oyster shells over the eyes of his dead son: an eerie funeral rite before the tiny body is burned on a pyre. Untethered by grief, ambition fills the void, as Lady Macbeth lures her husband into dark places, manipulating him into murdering the king.

The cinematography, special effects, locations, props and costumes deserve a mention here



because they really do transport you to the place you previously had to imagine hard to be in when you read the play. The slow-motion shots of the battlefield were truly a stroke of genius.

It's becoming increasingly hard to find a movie that Fassbender isn't in on, and this movie is a clear example of why. It almost seems like he was born for the role of Macbeth. The way he portrays certain emotionally demanding scenes are probably some of the best in recent cinema history. This same credit goes to his co-star and on-screen wife Marion Cotillard. She pulls off the role of Lady Macbeth in the same finesse as Fassbender and creates the perfect conspiring combo. Even the final mental breakdown of Lady Macbeth was pulled off well.

While everything about the movie is top-notch, I don't think it's for all types of audiences. First off, the language; it seems they decided to go with Shakespearean for the dialogues. Also for the sake of authenticity, they didn't go with unnecessary scenes of battle or anything else to keep audiences hooked. The way I see it, this is either a movie you will love, or won't; there is no maybe, but you know what, that's perfectly fine.

Reviewed by *Intisab Shabriyar*



CHALK N DUSTER

Director: Jayant Gilatar
Writers: Neetu Varma, Ranjeev Verma
Stars: Shabana Azmi, Arya Babbar, Gavie Chahal
Strength: Plot, Social Message
Weakness: Direction, Scripting
Runtime: 130 minutes
Rating: 1.5/5

PLOT: Teachers Vidya Sawant and Jyoti Thakur impart knowledge and values to students in a middle-class school. However, when an ambitious shrew becomes the principal, they are forced to wage a 'war' to safeguard their legacy.

REVIEW: Made with an intention of showcasing the worms in the current education system, where money often gets merit over capability; this film can be lauded to some degree. However, it flounders during the first half due to its tacky

narrative approach.

Presented much like a TV serial, it takes the oft-taken path of following the underprivileged on local train rides. So the point of a teacher's life being hard is made. Yet, it's predictable to see Shabana dabbing sweat in over-crowded areas and keeping the positive spirit at home that has a handicapped husband and their about-to-be chartered accountant daughter. The revered teacher also coaches the neighbourhood children for free. Then, we see Juhi, who is slightly more privileged than her colleague. She can buy a car on instalments. These two teachers also have hard-working colleagues, who become sisters in misery when Kamini Gupta, a devil wearing designer saris, is appointed as the principal. Divya is shown to be quite an

unreasonable woman. The shock of having to bear her nastiness gives Shabana a heart condition. Juhi exits the school and vows to get back the 'honour' of her colleague and herself. So, they reach out to a media person, RichaChadha, an IAS officer, a Minister, conscientious past students from the world over and even win Rs 5 crore in a KBC-styled contest, with Rishi Kapoor in a cameo as the quiz master!

While the film deals with a very important issue, the execution of the film completely ruins it. Even the veteran actresses Shabana and Juhi couldn't turn things around because they themselves were strangled by the clumsy writing and the unimaginative direction. You can still give this movie a go, but be braced for disappointment.

CLASSIC REVIEW

LA DOLCE VITA (1960)

Director: Federico Fellini
Writers: Federico Fellini, Ennio Flaiano & Tullio Pinelli.
Stars: Marcello Mastroianni, Anita Ekberg, Anouk Aimée
Runtime: 174 minutes

PLOT: A series of stories following a week in the life of a philandering paparazzo journalist living in Rome.

REVIEW: This sensational representation of certain aspects of life in contemporary Rome, as revealed in the clamorous experience of a free-wheeling newspaper man, is a brilliantly graphic estimation of a whole swath of society in sad decay and, eventu-



ally, a withering commentary upon the tragedy of the over-civilized. Old values, old disciplines are discarded for the modern, the synthetic, the

quick by a society that is past sophistication and is sated with pleasure and itself. It comes through with devastating impact in an episode wherein two frightened kids are used to whip up a religious rally for the benefit of television. It is implicit in the contact of the hero with a strange and motley mob of jaded aristocrats and world lings at an all-night party in a palace outside Rome. In sum, it is an awesome picture, lustful in content but moral and vastly sophisticated in its attitude and what it says.

Reviewed by *Mobaiminul Islam*