

MOVIE REVIEW

BATMAN v SUPERMAN

DC: Extended Universe Takes Off

NONY KHONDAKER

While Marvel has had success with film adaptations of their comics, things have not been particularly sunny for their rivals, DC Comics. With a view to changing the scenario, DC Comics has planned an Extended Universe and "Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice" is the movie that kickstarts this universe.

The movie starts off with the origin story of Batman. Although we have seen Batman's origin several times on the big screen, the portrayal in this movie is probably the best we've ever seen – thanks to the brilliant cinematography. After that, the movie fast forwards to the events during Man of Steel and focuses on where Bruce Wayne was at that time. The destructive battle between Superman and General Zod leads to the destruction of Wayne's properties, and the deaths and mutilations of a large number of his employees. Witnessing Superman's powers firsthand, he starts preparing to destroy him. 18 months later, Lois Lane gets captured by terrorists in Africa and Superman arrives to save the day. The encounter once again causes casualties and a trial is held in the court against Superman. Lex Luthor, CEO of LexCorp and a Superman hater, tries his best to sway the public opinion against Superman. In an attempt to put an end to Superman, he pits him and Batman against each other by playing with both their minds.

There were lots of controversies regarding the casting of this film – especially around Ben Affleck. Ben, however, turned out to be the best part of the film with his solid performance. Jeremy Irons also performed well as Alfred. Gal Gadot (Diana Prince/Wonder Woman) got a very small amount of screentime in the movie but within this short time,

she manages to steal the show. Henry Cavill and Amy Adams as Clark Kent/Superman and Lois Lane respectively, however, still feel awkward and their characters seem underdeveloped. Fans were divided over the casting of Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor and I personally never felt like he was up to the task. His performance in the movie just went on to solidify my stance.

As expected from a superhero movie, BvS has lots and lots of action. Batman's action scenes are heavily inspired by the Batman Arkham video game series. The Batmobile is hands down the best we've ever seen. Wonder Woman's action scenes are pretty sweet too. Superman's action sequences, while great, are overshadowed by the other two. There are also surprise cameos if you keep your eyes open – which I felt were rather forced. The cinematography and visual effects in the movie are absolutely spot-on.

BvS has all the elements necessary to be a great film yet it falls short of being one. This can be attributed mostly to the plot holes and the narrative of the movie. The narrative of the movie is convoluted and ultimately it feels like a compilation of scenes instead of a single, connected storyline.

In an attempt to set up an extended universe with a single movie, BvS has become a convoluted mess. Even after that, the experience of watching this movie is a must-have and if the mistakes of this movie are rectified in the future, DC: EU has a bright future ahead of it.

Nony Khondaker is an introvert with immense passion for tech and music. Feel free to send your constructive feedback at nonykhondaker@live.com or follow him on twitter.com/NonyKhondaker



A MEDLEY OF MEAT AND SPICES

DYUTY AURONEE

I walked into this new Lebanese restaurant in Dhanmondi with my cousin having promised her a farewell treat. If the dining experience was bad, it would be totally on me to ruin her last meal in Bangladesh. However, when done, she said the food was very similar in taste to what is served in the authentic Lebanese restaurants in Australia where she lives. And that's a good thing.

Lebanese food has always been something I had wanted to try. The use of spices and curries is a bit familiar to the sub-continental cuisine, yet the dishes are somehow more sophisticated and aromatic. I don't think any other cuisine that

pea steer clear.

Confession: I have never had lamb before. So I was pretty hesitant about ordering one lamb dish but decided to live a little dangerous anyway. Aarayis Kafta at BDT 250 is grilled pita bread with marinated minced lamb meat. The meat filling was tender and aromatic and the little onion salad went really well with the pita bread. We also ordered lemonade and labang to help with the aftertaste.

Among the oriental dishes, we tried the Chicken Kabbseh priced at BDT 550. It was a piece of steamed, marinated chicken served with fragrant basmati rice cooked with tomato and spices, and accompanied with a special sauce. I was really happy with the visual appeal of the



I have tasted takes the preparation of meat as seriously as this one. Since the market for Lebanese cuisine is untapped in this area, this place has been adding a new level of variety since December 2015.

For appetisers, they have the hot and cold *mezze*, similar to hot and cold salads, if I may say. Included in this list is Hommos, which is a very popular dip or spread in the Lebanese cuisine. Priced at BDT 325, the menu describes Hommos as mashed chickpeas mixed with sesame seed paste and a dash of lemon juice, topped with olive oil. A serving of four falafels is included in the hot mezze at BDT 225. It is essentially fried beans and chickpea paste served with tahini sauce and condiments. I personally love trying new items but if you don't like vegetarian dishes much or particularly dislike chick-

dish. The spices in the curry were a little overpowering but as one could control the amount of gravy you'd like to have from the sauce boat, it was balanced out easily.

With Middle Eastern decor and fragrant food, Al-Amar is one of the few places in Dhanmondi that could be considered fine dining.

Location: 275/D, Rangs Nasim Square, 4th Floor, Dhanmondi 27, 1209 Dhaka (beside Meena Bazar).

Website: www.al-amar-bd.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlAmarBangladesh

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