



X-MEN: APOCALYPSE

Director: Bryan Singer
Writers: Simon Kinberg, Bryan Singer
Stars: James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Sophie Turner
Runtime: 144 mins
Strength: CGI, Cast, Action
Weakness: Makeup
Rating: 3.5/5

PLOT: The X-Men must unite to defeat the world's first mutant, Apocalypse, and its emerging plan to destroy the planet and start a new era of civilization.
REVIEW: The story picks-up the long-running series threads, making it a strong

chapter in the X-Men filmography. En Sabah Nur A.K.A Apocalypse, hacks into Xavier's mind in an attempt to transfer his consciousness to Professor Charles Xavier's body and fulfil his destiny of burning the world down and start a new civilization, while being reborn in another vessel.

There are a couple of newcomers this time and some of who have made quite an impact. Scott Summers A.K.A Cyclops, Jean Grey, and Kurt Wagner A.K.A Nightcrawler are the latest additions to the team with Jean Grey taking the spotlight with her innocence and dexterity through-

out the film. Alongside is the return of one of the most liked characters in the trilogy, Quicksilver who is given some form of an arc to explore with a more substantial part and emotional complexity. The movie's world-destroying, god-like mutant, Apocalypse, struggles to be even the least bit menacing. This is solely due to the non-intimidating make up used on the oldest-mutant-on-the-planet, forcing the character towards failure in displaying the expected charisma. The action scenes have been well choreographed with the help of CGI. The battle has been played out on fields both physical and psychic

making the sequences intriguing. The clever rescue sequences pulled off by Quicksilver with his impossibly fast moves makes him one of the wittiest, if not the wittiest character in the film. At its core, there is a neat story of mutant power and evolution in this installment of The X-Men. The movie has been hollow at times where it should have had more impact and stifled where it should have been the most thrilling. Nonetheless, the movie provides enough reasons to look forward for future sequels.

Reviewed by Syed Ahnaf Sadeed

AZHAR

Director: Anthony D'Souza
Writers: Rajat Arora
Stars: Emraan Hashmi, Prachi Desai, Nargis Fakhri, Gautam Gulati
Runtime: 130 mins
Strength: Soundtrack
Weakness: Story, Acting
Rating: 2.5/5

PLOT: Azhar, the captain of the Indian cricket team faces a match fixing allegation due to his name being linked with a London based bookie for which the Indian cricket board slaps a life ban on him from playing cricket forcing Azhar to challenge the ban in court.
REVIEW: Azhar lives a lavish lifestyle, dressed to please; so when allegations of match-fixing taint the name of Azhar in 2000, he sees a fall from the public eye so bad that he does not know how to win back the respect of his country. The cricketer is banned from playing for India. Eventually, he decides to fight against the allegations which turn out to be a world of pain for him and fix his tainted image. The film works for most parts due to Emraan's brilliant performance. Prachi



Desai has also done a good job at slipping into the character of Azhar's first wife with ease, making the audience feel the throbbing pain of rejection and betrayal. However, each of the other actors had a prominent fault in their acting ranging from exaggeration of accents to being unnecessarily discourteous, except for one; the movie's saving grace is the convincing portrayal done in an inept script by the protagonist himself, Emraan Hashmi. This could have been a great advisory tale about an upcoming great sport at a time when it was just becoming the arena it has now grown into. Due to the incoherence in story-telling throughout the movie, unfortunately, Azhar fails to hit it out of the stadium.

By Syed Ahnaf Sadeed

CLASSIC REVIEW

MISSING (1982)

Director: Costa-Gavras
Writers: Costa-Gavras, Donald Stewart
Stars: Jack Lemmon, Sissy Spacek, Melanie Mayron
Runtime: 122 minutes

PLOT: When an idealistic writer disappears during the Right Wing military coup in 1973 Chile, his wife and American businessman father try to find him.
REVIEW: Mr. Costa-Gavras's film, about the 1973 kidnap and murder in Chile of Charles Horman, is an interesting piece peering into the dysfunctional nature of society and its workings. The center of the film is the political awakening of Ed Horman, who comes to Chile to help Beth, though he suspects that Charles has gone under cover for some reason that is beyond his comprehension. "If he had stayed home," says Ed, who is



well-to-do and politically conservative, as well as a practicing Christian Scientist, "this wouldn't have happened."
 In view of the film's opening contention of being a true story, the care that Mr. Costa-Gavras takes not ever to identify Chile by name is a bit disingenuous. The cities are clearly named and identified. Also a bit disingenuous is the way the film never bothers to give a good answer to the question of why the Chilean - and possibly the American - authorities found it necessary to liquidate Charles Horman while allowing the safe departure from Chile of Terry Simon. Terry, after all, is privy to all the supposedly damaging information Charles gathered in Vina del Mar.

Reviewed by Mohaiminul Islam