



## UDTA PUNJAB

**Director:** Abhishek Chaubey  
**Writers:** Supid Sharma, Abhishek Chaubey  
**Stars:** Alia Bhatt, Shahid Kapoor, Diljit Dosanjh, Satish Kaushik  
**Strength:** Story, Acting, Soundtrack  
**Weakness:** Not suitable for children  
**Runtime:** 148 mins  
**Rating:** 4.5/5

**PLOT:** With the major adolescents tripping away into oblivion, the celebrated land of Punjab is stricken down deep with the drug menace without hope for salvation.

**REVIEW:** The movie revolves around drug abuse in the affluent north Indian State of Punjab and how the youth have surrendered themselves to the vice grip of drug abuse as a whole resulting in a socio-economic decline.

The movie has stirred a horde of controversies prior to its release. This is mainly due to the movie's controversial nature and profane language. But the subsequent reaction of audiences after its release has been exactly what it should have been: dumbfounded by a dark, gritted story of drug-afflicted Punjab where the youth are its only ray of hope for eradication.

Tommy Singh, is a fading musician, addicted to drugs and has been cussing throughout his career is brilliantly portrayed by Shahid Kapoor who has lived up to the hype of the film by showcasing his acting prowess and portrayal of character, performing one of his best in this film. The show stopper of this film is undoubtedly Alia Bhatt, who delivers one of her best performances of all time and getting everything right, from the accent to the body language.

Another thing that this movie succeeds in pulling off is music. They have been placed properly, adding perspective to moments and paced along the movie really well.

The movie works mainly because of its harmonious blend of wit and humour with the unorthodox storyline. A topic so serious is brilliantly narrated by director Abhishek Chaubey, transporting the audiences to the land of drugs through paradoxes. One does not need a reason to watch Udta Punjab; a brilliant cast with impeccable acting and fluid narration makes this film one of the best in this year.

By Syed Ahnaf Sadeed

## ME BEFORE YOU

**Director:** Thea Sharrock  
**Writers:** Jojo Moyes  
**Stars:** Emilia Clarke, Sam Claflin, Janet McTeer  
**Strength:** Cast, Soundtrack  
**Weakness:** Story  
**Runtime:** 110 mins  
**Rating:** 3.5/5

**PLOT:** A paralyzed man forms an unlikely attachment with a small town girl who is taking care of him.

**REVIEW:** Will Traynor (Sam Claflin) suffers from quadriplegia, a paralysis that resulted in a total loss of his use of all four limbs leading in the hire of Louisa (Emilia Clarke) to take care of him. This eventually leads to an unlikely romance between them and forms the foundation of the story.

The romantic fantasy consists of a very strong cast which stands as the backbone of the movie. Will's father Stephen and mother Camilla portrayed by Charles Dance and Janet McTeer

respectively have played convincing parts. Louisa's character is endearing, full of optimism with a fabulous smile making it very believable that she is going to cheer Will up and stop him from leaning towards euthanasia. Sam Claflin does a good job at portraying Will, the debonair and adventurous rich financier who, in pursuit of these high-risk tomfooleries, injures himself terribly.

With a movie all about emotion, it is essential that the music be harmonious to bring out the sentiments and it does exactly that with songs by Ed Sheeran, the 1975 and Imagine Dragons.

The story is somewhat common, does not provide anything new and fails to stand out on its own. Along with the addition of amazing soundtracks the movie is worthwhile to watch, especially for the romance fanatics.

By Syed Ahnaf Sadeed



### CLASSIC REVIEW

## WHEN FATHER WAS AWAY ON BUSINESS



**Director:** Emir Kusturica  
**Writers:** Abdulah Sidran  
**Stars:** Moreno D'E Bartolli, Predrag Manojlovic, Mirjana Karanovic  
**Runtime:** 136 minutes

**PLOT:** In a post-World War II Yugoslavia still under Stalinist rule in the 1950s, 6-year-old Malik is oblivious as to why his father, Mehmed, has suddenly disappeared.

**REVIEW:** Set mostly in Sarajevo in the 1950's, the film references to the uneasy relationship between Marshal Tito's postwar Yugoslavia and the Stalinist Soviet Union. Working from a screenplay by Abdulah Sidran, the director creates a vivid portrayal of the family members. Malik's mother

takes up work as a seamstress to support her father and three sons, while also yearning for her absent husband and forgetting the philanthropy that helped put him away.

The film, which follows a narrative style, traces the family through the crisis and back a sense of stability while capturing some of Malik's formative experiences, despite the absence of a father figure, including his first stirrings of love for an amazingly diffident little girl. The movie weaves around the plot in a vivid, yet touching and humorous manner, rendering it one of the best works by the director.

Reviewed by Mohaiminul Islam