

A Magical Journey towards Self-Discovery

MAHEJABEEN HOSSAIN NIDHI

Song of the Sea, nominated for Best Animated Feature at the 87th Academy Awards, is a visually stunning hand-animated film that uses folklore to take us on an incredible adventure with a 10 year old Irish boy, Ben, and his mute six year old sister, Saoirse.

This fairytale of a movie has a plotline based on selkies which are mythological creatures that live in the sea as seals but shed their skin to become humans on land. Moreover, the film involves a giant, an owl witch, a seanchaí, and other faerie creatures.

Despite being packed with such supernatural characters the story still remains true to the leads; the film is about the very real emotions between the two siblings who lost their mother during Saoirse's birth. The movie is a study on how Ben and Saoirse's relationship evolves as they go through a life altering experience decorated with these surreal characters.

Other than emphasising the significance of a sibling's role in life, the movie dives deep into the importance of being in touch with one's self. It depicts how being torn from her own true identity leads Saoirse to decay as a person. Therein, the movie boldly illustrates how a parent shouldn't actively go against a child's genuine passions and

natural talents despite thinking it's for the best.

The movie is rated PG, and it's important to realise that this family appropriate movie is one which has immense emotional weight. The film has gorgeous animation and lovable characters to captivate a child but it hints at excruciating moral dilemmas which can only be appreciated by a more mature viewer.

This 93 minute long film of masterful story-telling is accompanied by no less than 25 songs, of a total of approximately 54 minutes, crafted to perfectly fit into the animation without feeling overdone in the slightest. The title song has the most breathtaking ability to be simultaneously soothing and almost heart-breaking in its beauty.

People should watch this movie as an experience to value its content as well as be mesmerised by the appeal of the brilliant artwork and soundtrack. Both emotionally draining and rewarding at the same time, *Song of the Sea* leaves the audience wondering whether to cry or to smile.

With a keen eye and a broken brain to mouth filter, Mahejabeen Hossain Nidhi has a habit of throwing obscure insults from classic novels at random people who may or may not have done anything to warrant them. Drop her a line at mahejabeen.nidhi@gmail.com



TV SERIES REVIEW

Lost & Found in Time

MUSTAFID RAIYAN KHAN

We've all been fascinated with time in some point in our lives, and more often than not we've asked ourselves, "What if?" What if we put in extra 5 minutes of effort before a final? What if we *didn't* guzzle down a litre of water before heading out into congested Banani 11, bladder exploding?

Life is full of what ifs, and that's exactly how the TV series, *12 Monkeys*, starts off. What if you could hit a reset button and take back every bad thing you've ever done? You'd hit it, right?

12 Monkeys falls under what you'd call a science fiction/mystery genre based around "time". Released in 2015, the show distinguishes itself from other shows that dabble with time - such as *Dr. Who* or *The Flash* - mainly in the fact that the protagonists are ordinary people without special gadgets or super powers.

The story kicks off in a post-apocalyptic earth in the year 2043, ravaged by a fatal virus that wiped out 93.6% of the world's population. Most left alive have turned into scavengers fighting, killing and stealing off each other to survive. Well, save for a group of scientists that have pinned their hopes to a machine that can send back people to the past, to potentially prevent the outbreak of the disease and erase this dismal future.

And that's where James Cole (Aaron Stanford) comes in. After being a scavenger all his life, he stumbles upon this group of scientists, who convince him he must go back in time, especially after he hears an audio clip left by Dr. Cassandra Raily (Amanda Schull), a virologist from the past, specifically mentioning his name and instructing him to save the world. James Cole, convinced, splinters to the past to meet Dr. Raily and

thus their journey unfolds, along with other friends who help along the way.

There are several instances of the butterfly effect in the show - small changes in past events rippling through time to completely change the future. A lot hinges on causality, and James Coles has numerous excursions to different timelines (2012, 2015, even as far back as 1943 and 1961) as well as encounters with people in these timelines who apparently remember Cole from before but who Cole fails to recognise. He finds out the past and future are intertwined, one causing the other in a cycle. What starts off as a mission to merely prevent the outbreak of disease quickly evolves into a race against time through time to save time, as James Cole eventually comes to confront the Army of the 12 Monkeys, an organisation lead by The Witness, who wants to destroy time itself and create an eternal "now" where the past, present and future coexist.

All in all, *12 Monkeys* is an interesting watch, the plot not too complicated to create confusion nor too simple to make the show predictable. Add the unravelling romance between Cole and Dr. Raily to the mix, along with detailed fight scenes in the past, present, and future, betrayals and coups, and deaths make for a comprehensive watch too.

And arguably the coolest part of the show is the play on time itself, how it's explained and how causality is portrayed in the series. And you have paradoxes too, when something from the future comes into contact with itself in the past.

What happens then? Explosions.

Mustafid Raiyan Khan is an excellent procrastinator and has mastered the art of doing nothing and regretting his nothingness even further. Help his endeavors at <https://www.facebook.com/mustaaachio>

ANIMATED MOVIE REVIEW

