



CLASSIC REVIEW
WHERE IS THE FRIEND'S HOME? (1987)

Director: Abbas Kiarostami
Writer: Abbas Kiarostami
Stars: Babek Ahmed Poor, Ahmed Ahmed Poor, Kheda Bareh Defai
Runtime: 83 mins

PLOT: In order to stop his friend from being punished from school, an 8-year-old boy must return his friend's notebook by mistake.

REVIEW: Like many of Kiarostami's previous works, the movie is about a child's story, presumably due to the fact that such subjects are unlikely to include social constraints than would stories about more adult men and women. Kiarostami's cinematography in the film is honest and innate, with the entire focus put on the boy, Ahmed, showing the movie from his anxious perception.

All of his films are characterized by his unique self-reflexive and long-take cinematography, with the inclusion of undisguised blend of Iranian poetry and spiritual philosophy that has earned him the admiration of intellectual critics all over the world.

As the film progresses, a deeper theme gradually surfaces: the boy's sense of "doing the right thing" is almost always in struggle with the complicated world of rules and duties that are forced on the child by the unfair adult world. The film depicts a meaningful truth: a child learns that not all that his elders say is right and that sometimes it is alright to break the convention. "Where Is My Friend's Home?" is a perfect example that a story does not need to be exciting to be meaningful, and that the best stories come from the simplest of stories. The movie is one of Kiarostami's finest and surely one of those movies that should not be missed by any film enthusiast.

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RAMAN RAGHAV 2.0

Director: Anurag Kashyap
Writers: Vasan Bala, Anurag Kashyap
Stars: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Vicky Kaushal, Sobhita Dhulipala
Strength: Acting
Weakness: Story
Runtime: 133 mins
Rating: 3.5/5

PLOT: A serial killer inspired by an infamous serial killer from the past is obsessed with a young cop and closely follows him without him knowing and often creates situations where the both of them meet.

REVIEW: Director Anurag Kashyap has proven from time to time that he is one of the most exciting crossover filmmakers in India. The basic message that the movie aims to promote is that cops and criminal are very much similar, have a lot in common, and that the line between good and evil is simple to cross.

The story of the film is somewhat common. However, the exceptionally frightening performance by



Nawazuddin Siddiqui has stopped the film from turning into a huge cliché. The demented serial killer Ramana has a very strong and putrid character that completely defines the movie. Nawazuddin's method-acting converted excellently into a mesmerizing performance. However, as much as it is impressive to watch Nawazuddin play the lunatic, depth and variation in character of women in the film are lacking,

deteriorating the overall quality of the movie.

The movie provides an alternative to the more mainstream Bollywood offerings. Similar to Gangs of Wasseypur, director Anurag Kashyap has kept on making his mark on the burgeoning independent film scene with this enthralling psychological thriller.

Reviewed By Syed Ahnaf Sadeed



Director: John Carney
Writer: John Carney
Stars: Ferdia Walsh-Peelo, Aidan Gillen, Maria Doyle Kennedy
Strength: Story, Dialogues, Soundtrack
Weakness: Duration
Runtime: 106 mins
Rating: 4.5/5

PLOT: Growing up in Dublin during the 1980s, a boy finds a getaway from his damaged family life by forming a band to impress a girl he is fond of.

REVIEW: Conor is a 15-year-old boy who is struggling to turn the background noise of his parents' crumbling marriage into meaningful songs. His impromptu effort to impress the girl he likes by forming a band is the first exciting segment that starts off the

excellently written film.

Director John Carney has an insightful ear for dialogue, an amusing and incredible eye for detail, and makes the movie very personal in a way that it is universal. The movie had a clear direction as to where it was heading.

Each character in the movie had distinctive roles and imperfect personalities that have been played out perfectly by the actors. Conor's elder brother Brendan provides the backbone to Conor both musically and fraternally, whose lost dreams and rich understanding of the world drives the 15-year-old's rite of passage. Even the surrounding cast consisting of eccentric bullies and overconfident band members have splendidly played their

roles. Adolescence sits in the heart of the movie and it depicts the self-involved phase of life as it should be.

There have been many memorable sequences in the film; the silent moments of growing affection between Conor and Raphina, the band's chain of music videos, and a lot of other moments that have been composed in perfect harmony.

Sing Street brings together music, emotions, fun and the thrill of first love along with the poignant joyous moments that make this movie a personal one, and takes a very different take from the clichéd romantic stories in current times. The movie is a must watch for people of all ages.

Reviewed By Syed Ahnaf Sadeed