



THE PURGE: ELECTION YEAR

Director: James DeMonaco
Writer: James DeMonaco
Stars: Frank Grillo, Elizabeth Mitchell, Mykelti Williamson
Strength: Story
Weakness: Soundtrack
Runtime: 109 min
Rating: 3.5/5

PLOT: A Presidential candidate is targeted for assassination on Purge night due to her vow to eradicate the Purge.

REVIEW: The third instalment of the "Purge" series brings a more viscous approach to the national Purge night compared to its predecessors. The story revolves around Senator Charlie Roan who is the only one that can stop the New Founding Fathers of America (NFFA), who are a group of blue-blood politicians oppressing the poor and advocating the idea of Annual Purge Night. The movie shifts away from

standing out as a straight horror film, focusing more on politics, racism, sexism and socioeconomics.

The background score used in the film were quite recurring and kept losing its pace during various facets of the movie.

The Purge has evolved over the course of three films as a franchise and has gotten better. This instalment provides the best story, best characters and perfor-

mances. The film has evolved from being a general dystopian universe to a more realistic view of what could become if the USA makes the wrong choices. Overall, the film is a very entertaining experience that keeps the viewers thinking at all times. By taking the best of previous dystopian worlds, the movie stands out as the best "Purge" yet.

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Reviewed By: Syed Ahnaf Sadeed

MOHENJO DARO

Director: Ashutosh Gowariker
Writer: Ashutosh Gowariker
Stars: Hrithik Roshan, Pooja Hegde, Kabir Bedi
Strength: Story, Action
Weakness: Cast
Runtime: 155 min
Rating: 3.5/5

PLOT: The story of a farmer who leads an uprising in the historic city of Mohenjo Daro.

REVIEW: The movie opens with a vast expanse of rocky landscape, where Sharman, played by Hrithik Roshan is seen rowing along a lake with his village acquaintances to find and kill a man-eating alligator. This is where the first shortcoming is spotted as his victory over the alligator gives away his unusual invincibility.

Excluding the stellar performance provided by Hrithik Roshan, the rest of the cast provided a somewhat ordinary display of acting. The role of Maham was portrayed by Kabir Bedi, who is usually good at portraying antagonistic parts, but could not do so effectively in this film. The portrayal of Chaani by the newcomer Pooja Hegde had lacking in many aspects. Son of the Pradhan, Moonja, had a strong character and was played by Arunoday Singh effectively. Hrithik Roshan managed to hold the film together with his controlled performance, filling in for the shortcomings of the movie.



Director Ashutosh Gowariker's attempt of literal interpretation of historical artefacts into the story seems unnatural, especially the unicorn that Sarman keeps seeing, and the headdress worn by Chaani that resembles the figurine of Mohenjo Daro's mother goddess.

There is not a central plot in the film; rather, the movie is filled with sub-plots that range from a love story, a revenge plot or an epic adventure, making it full of possibilities. The movie stretches over 2 hours long and due to the perfect timing of the climax the film manages to retain viewership till the end. Gowariker's creative take on the historical land and a re-imagination of the era is a pleasant experience on the whole.

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Reviewed By: Syed Ahnaf Sadeed

CLASSIC REVIEW

The Piano (1993)

Director: Jane Campion
Writer: Jane Campion
Stars: Holly Hunter, Harvey Keitel, Sam Neill
Runtime: 121 min

PLOT: A mute woman and her young daughter are sent to New Zealand for an arranged marriage to a rich landlord, and soon after she falls under the bad eyes of a local worker.

REVIEW: The movie tells the story of repression, shyness and loneliness of a woman. The movie contains elements of Gothic in it, masking eroticism with mystery and fear in a Victorian setting. The main actress in the film is spectacular with her performance along with the rest of the characters who provide for the film immensely. The touching performance given by the child actor Pacquin as the daughter is one of the most astonishing examples of child acting in film history. The film seems

deceptively small, but the characters in it are strong, complex and bold.

The cinematography provided by Stuart Dryburgh in the film enhances the story with its elegance and lack of fanciness, marking the work of Jane Campion. The simple placement of camera shows the audacity of the cine-



matographer and provides a breath taking visual not by conventional special effects, rather by choosing the unique locations to shoot from.

The movie is one of those rare ones that talks beyond the frames of story or characters. "The Piano" is a magnificently filmed piece of cinema, with the composition of the

cinematography letting the viewers witness New Zealand through Ada's eyes. A classic film that must be watched by serious movie fans around the globe.

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Source: Roger Ebert