



AYNABAJI

Director: Amitabh Reza Chowdhury
Writer: Syed Gaosul Alam Shaon
Stars: Chanchal Chowdhury, Masuma Rahman Nabila, Partho Barua
Strength: Cast, Story, Cinematography
Weakness: Duration
Runtime: 144min
Rating: 4/5

PLOT: The story of a struggling actor and his survival in a merciless society where he gets to live his profession in real life after failing his career.

REVIEW: The film provides the viewers with an empathic view to its characters, which is coupled with brilliant storytelling making the audience wanting more.

From the very first scene to the last, the film was entrancing and incredibly engaging. The main factor that contributed to the audiences to be enticed to the whole of the film was the amazing script that was transformed into a magnetic narration. The directorial debut of famous ad-maker Amitabh Reza could not have been done in a better way. A lot had been expected from Amitabh by the audience and every form of hope was met in this film, clearly marking his ground in the film industry.

Even though the film was engaging, the duration of the film could make the film tedious for some audience. Another aspect

that was noted in the film was the lack of direction in the type of market it was catering to. In certain parts it seemed like an art film, targeted for critics and movie enthusiasts, and in other parts it felt like it was made for the mass, which is not a bad thing nonetheless, but perhaps with better segmentation the movie could have been made even better.

Chanchal Chowdhury stood out as a competitor to his own multiple characters that he portrayed in the film, performing remarkably and setting new acting standards. Masuma Rahman Nabila's debut in the film was nothing short of noteworthy, emanating her facile presence in the film eloquently.

The cinematography by Rashed Zaman was impeccable, capturing the minute detail of the metropolitan city, Dhaka, with perfection. The soundtracks in the film went perfectly with the screenplay, especially Habib and Onnesha's "Dhire Dhire", Arnab's "Praner Shohor" and Chirkutt's "Duniya".

Overall, the movie is equally entertaining as it is thought-provoking. The success of "Aynabaji" has set new standards for Bengali films, after which the audience will surely be expecting movies of the same calibre in the days to come.

Reviewed by Zahid Akbar

M.S. DHONI The Untold Story

Director: Neeraj Pandey
Writers: Neeraj Pandey, Dilip Jha
Stars: Sushant Singh Rajput, Disha Patani, Kiara Advani,
Strength: Cast, Direction
Weakness: Story
Runtime: 184min
Rating: 3.5/5

PLOT: The story of the world-cup-winning captain of the Indian cricket team, and his journey from being a ticket collector to leading India to glory.

REVIEW: The first half of the film gets deep into minute details of the once-middle-class boy's life in the town of Ranchi. This half provides for the film immensely and provides a great build up to the main part of the story.

Portraying Dhoni in the film is Sushant Singh Rajput, who does a splendid job at impersonating the captain. The quality of cricketing on screen is brilliant, with Sushant looking absolutely right with the bat and gloves. His movements and shots in the matches were uncannily similar to that of Dhoni, Sushant was the heart of the film and blended well with the rest of the cast.

The film had the full potential to present the cricketing stories of recent times,



but sadly, the cricketer is constricted to being a typical Bollywood hero, focusing more on his love interests rather than a master strategist.

The movie stretches over the three hour mark, and the storytelling makes the whole experience enjoyable and not tedious. Perhaps by including more of backroom politics of the cricket governing bodies, the captain's pressure and his way of strategising the master plan to manage all these problems while winning the cup, the movie could have really stood out.

Reviewed by Syed Ahnaf Sadeed

CLASSIC REVIEW

ROSETTA (1999)

Directors: Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne
Writers: Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne
Stars: Émilie Dequenne, Fabrizio Rongione, Anne Yernaux
Runtime: 95min

PLOT: The story of a young and impulsive woman living in despair with her alcoholic mother.

REVIEW: The opening sequences of the film reveal the miserable life that Rosetta lives as she sells old clothes for money and fishes in a filthy stream nearby for food. The film has an odd profound tone which strongly focuses on economic acceptance; a young lady for whom employment indubitably equals happiness. Rosetta's spirit is characterized as her disdain for society and her frantic need to be considered as part of it.

The entire film has been shot hand-held, an attempt to be a tool for achieving intimacy and impulsiveness that pays off. The nucleus of the story revolves around Rosetta's

suspicious relationship with Riquet, a young man her own age, whose job is so fiercely desired by Rosetta that she deceives him. Émilie Dequenne's performance in the film as Rosetta is undeniably noteworthy, portraying the young woman's struggle for survival to perfection.

Overall, the film touches a great topic: the Darwinian struggle for surviving and the dehumanizing effects that comes along with it. A great movie to watch that will make the audience ponder every time.

Source: The New York Times

