

MIRZYA



Director: Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra
Writer: Gulzar
Stars: Harshvardhan Kapoor, Saiyami Kher, Art Malik
Strength: Cast, Production
Weakness: Acting, Direction
Runtime: 129min
Rating: 2/5

PLOT: The story of a groom reconnecting with his childhood love, who is engaged to marry the local prince.

REVIEW: The initial segments begin with an engaging scene where Suchi and Mohnish are attached to each other dearly as childhood sweethearts, parting and meeting again eventually in different situations. The film slides down eventually as it had the full intent on creating just a pretty picture, not on creating a profound love story.

The duo could not match their chemistry and failed to set the screen on fire.

While both of them are newcomers, Harshvardhan provided a slightly better performance than his counterpart, Saiyami. On the whole, both failed to make any real impact in the film.

The cast chosen were strong with the likes of Art Malik and Om Kapoor. However, even with such brilliant cast they were somewhat sidelined, which is quite disappointing.

The production quality was remarkable.

Since Rajasthan was the sole location for this movie, the royal settings were breathtaking. Grand forts, glittering desserts, the grand costumes make for the most amazing eye-candy.

Overall, the film was a visual delight without a doubt, but, the lack of proper direction coupled with sub-par acting turned the film into a disappointment.

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Source: The Indian Express

WAR DOGS

Director: Todd Phillips
Writers: Stephen Chin, Todd Phillips
Stars: Jonah Hill, Miles Teller, Steve Lantz
Strength: Cast
Weakness: Direction
Runtime: 114min
Rating: 3.5/5



PLOT: The story of two young men who managed to win a \$300 million contract from the Pentagon for supplying arms to the American allies in Afghanistan.

REVIEW: Based on a true story, the initial sequences of the core story reveals Efraim Diveroli and David Packouz starting their arms trading business from the bottom, where they look for demand for arms not fulfilled by the major sup-

pliers. That is where the story starts to escalate as the duo start gaining reputation in the business and ascend to the next level of arms trading.

The brilliance of the film lies not in the story, but in the performance of the actors, especially Jonah Hill, who delivers a magnificent performance with the portrayal of Efraim Diveroli. Even his peculiar laugh, which is similar to that of a hyena, packs a mix of neediness and obsession, making it very effective for his character. Miles Teller's performance was also noteworthy; portraying the role of David Packouz, the calmer half of the duo, brilliantly. His chemistry with Hill is remarkable and makes for the highlight of the film.

The story is quite good, however, the monotonous direction by Todd Phillips failed to make the movie for a propulsive thriller. It is fairly entertaining, but the narration lacks originality. On the whole, "Wardogs" is an enjoyable film with some hiccups in the narration that is somewhat covered for thanks to the likes of Jonah Hill's and Miles Teller's acting prowess.

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Reviewed by Syed Ahnaf Sadeed

CLASSIC REVIEW
DANCER IN THE DARK (2000)



Director: Lars von Trier
Writer: Lars von Trier
Stars: Björk, Catherine Deneuve, David Morse
Runtime: 140min

PLOT: A girl from Czech moves to America with her young son to save themselves from going blind.

REVIEW: The movie is a courageous reminiscence of traditional cinema fundamentals- a cast consisting of heroines and villains, events that include noble sacrifices and incidents of devious betrayals. Selma, portrayed by Icelandic popstar Björk, is an unfortunate woman who is in perils of losing her eyesight as well as her son's for which she is in dire need of money. Her husband, who is a cop, deceives her which further puts her

in a massive turmoil. The movie might seem too far-fetched and deliberately improbable, but that is exactly what it is not; it is deliberately trying to be implausible, making it seem like a soap opera. Most of the film is shot in a monotonous manner; however, the musical numbers have vivid colours, which are set in different settings such as a railroad bridge and a factory floor. "Dancer in the Dark" is quite unlike any other movie. The implausible storyline may seem unappealing initially, but subsequent sequences make it very clear that the film was made to break off the chains of habit that many movies surround themselves with.

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Source: Roger Eber