

Director: Steven Spielberg **Writers:** Melissa Mathison, Roald Dahl **Stars:** Mark Rylance, Ruby Barnhill, Penelope Wilton

Runtime: 117min
Strength: Animation
Weakness: Story
Rating: 3.5/5

PLOT: The story of a girl and her interaction with a giant, who turns out to be a kind soul, despite his scary appearance.

REVIEW: Based on Roald Dahl's fantasy book, the movie is about the young orphan Sophie who has been snatched by a giant and later ends up befriending it. The film has an overall dark tone surrounding the fantasy, with tense moments of danger throughout the story. Even though certain dialogues in the film may be frightening for kids, the movie is mainly a tale of friendship in the most improbable places.

The young Sophie, portrayed by Ruby Barnhill, did an adorable and admirable job. However, it is Mark Rylance who really steals the spotlight with his impeccable acting. The motion-captured giant is evidently modelled on the actor's facial features that convey much of his quintessential expressions.

The film however, could not provide the impact that director Spielberg's films usually do. It is partly due to the lack of adequate emotion, which was required to stir up the audience's conscience. The plot lacked a crucial element that really could have uplifted the film.

On the whole, the film is enjoyable, albeit slightly disappointing considering the director's cerebral capacity to capture the audience. A pleasant film to watch that was made specifically for the kids.

Reviewed by: Syed Ahnaf Sadeed



Director: Sunil Subramani **Writer:** Pawan Kumar Sharma

Stars: Sharman Joshi, Shubham, Katrina Kaif

Strength: Cast Weakness: Story Runtime: 100min Rating: 2.5/5

PLOT: A man's entire world is turned upside down as his wife and family disrespect and disregard him.

REVIEW: The film displays the unfortunate trials and tribulations faced by typical middle-class couples in Mumbai. The story revolves around a boy who comes to the city from Varanasi to find out the horrible spaces that people live in Mumbai.

Shubham portrays Mohan, who does a

great job and looks believable with his bogged down condition. Swati Kapoor makes her debut in the film and does a considerable job. The supporting casts in the film are popular names, making cameos to give a push to the film, entertaining the audience while at it. The comedy elements in the film are the other thing that is worth enjoying that eventually gets tedious.

The movie at heart is a coming-of-age story of a migrant who, to his dismay, falls into unfortunate situations. The movie provides more visuals rather than emotions and answers no questions, which is disappointing to see. An ordinary film with good talents that could have been made much better had there been a proper story to tell.

Source: Times of India

CLASSIC REVIEW

ELEPHANT (2003)

Director: Gus Van Sant **Writer:** Gus Van Sant

Stars: Elias McConnell, Alex Frost, Eric Deulen

Runtime: 81mins

PLOT: Several high school students go through their everyday routine as two others prepare for something more malicious.

REVIEW: The movie amazes the audience who are looking for solutions or antagonist, as it does not provide either. Cinematographer Harris Savides uses the fullest of his talents, darting through extended scenes filmed in one take. His low-key cinematography is a sign of maturity that brilliance does not require glitz.

Director Van Sant gives the film subtle life by shifting its focus from one group of students to another, making the camera drift like a bored high school students. The movie seems like one that would be seen projected in a high school, giving it a very homely vibe, while staying deceptively calm.

At the end of the movie, it is realized that much of the clarity and power of it comes from the camera; by making the camera an observer, the audience gets a different perspective quintessential to horror movies. The film is a mixture of the ordinary with the terrifying, which is a brilliant thing to witness.

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