

CLASSICS REVIEW

WINTER SLEEP (2014)

Director: Nuri Bilge Ceylan**Writer:** Nuri Bilge Ceylan & Ebru Ceylan**Cast:** Haluk Bilginer, Demet Akbag, Melisa Sözen, Ayberk Pekan**Runtime:** 196min**Rating:** 9.5/10

PLOT: Aydin (Haluk Bilginer) is a wealthy intellectual hotel owner of central Anatolia, thrusts his superiority in front of people around him. This leads other people to despise him greatly. Aydin used to perform in theatres as an actor and after his retirement, he started writing for local newspapers. He runs a hotel with his tender aged beautiful wife Nihal, and his newly divorced sister, Necla. After inheriting prolific lands from his late parents, his powers motivated him to suffocate the town people unjustly, who are living as his tenants. The conversations between the family members become grim and as winter approaches the guests bid adieu to the hotel in Anatolia. Thus, the drama ends as a tragic comedy.

REVIEW: Nuri Bilge Ceylan's Turkish film "Winter Sleep" won the prestigious Palme d'or at the Cannes in 2014. Although being denied by Ceylan for not taking ideas from any legendary wordsmiths such as Chekhov, traces of connotations from Anton Chekhov's "The Wife" and "Excellent People" seemed very vivid to those who has already read the short stories, which one can very much relate with this movie. It can be said that no one but the exceptionally talented Nuri Bilge Ceylan could have painted the words of Chekhov so vividly. Apart from showcasing the mesmerizing imageries of winter in terms of cinematography, the setting looked gloomy and



alienated. Yet, backgrounds of urban life could have looked better in the screen. Nevertheless, the dialogues have immense depth and the conversations between the characters stand very philosophical towards the end. Haluk Bilginer's character as Aydin can be interpreted as one of the false-faced hypocrites of the society, who only showcases their charities due to their position and not for empathy. Aydin acts in denial when he writes about his own reflection in the newspaper blaming Imam Hamdi. He is the dictator, who has no necessity to be kind and gentle towards others. According to him, everyone including his wife and sister seem to be lying under his feet. A fundraiser being hosted by his wife seems very disagreeable to him for which he asks for divorce, but he still donates money for her fundraising. In a similar fashion, this character has been sketched in a very articulate manner and every bit of emotions has been blended seamlessly by all the other characters as well. Hence, this Istanbul based movie is an impeccable abstract piece of art for the reflective minds.

Reviewed by Sumaiya Akhter Nitu

KAABIL

**Director:** Sanjay Gupta**Story:** Sanjay Masoon, Vijay Kumar Mishra**Producer:** Rakesh Roshan**Stars:** Hrithik Roshan, Yami Gautam, Ronit Roy, Rohit Roy**Strength:** Acting, Story, Cinematography**Weakness:** Few unrealistic scenes**Runtime:** 139min**Rating:** 8/10

PLOT: "Kaabil" is a Bollywood movie based on a sad story of a blind man. The movie begins with Rohan Bhatnagar (Hrithik) meeting up with Supriya (Yami), a match fixed by a common friend. They start going out and eventually falls in love. Afterwards, they tie the knot. Things were going fine until Amit and Aasim came to the scene. The two kept teasing Hrithik and Yami because it gives them gratification. Suddenly, the movie takes a tragic turn as his wife gets killed. Rohan is ruptured by the desire to take revenge,

thus signaling the tragic vengeance of a desperate blind man.

REVIEW: The movie was directed by Sanjay Gupta and he did a great job with it. The story of this movie was well written, though the clear highlight was Hrithik's dazzling performance. He was susceptible as a lover and as dangerous as a killing-machine when taking revenge on his wife's killers. Yami Gautam provides the perfect supporting role for the movie's story to become strong, making the chemistry with Hrithik especially scintillating. Ronit Roy played the part of a villain perfectly. The movie had some scenes which were unrealistic, but overall it was a good watch. The cinematography was done by Sudeep Chatterjee and the music was composed by Resul Pookutty. The movie had two remixes of Rajesh Roshan's hit songs – "Saara Zamana" and "Dil Kya Karen".

Reviewed by Sheikh Sayem Ahmed

HIDDEN FIGURES

Director: Theodore Melfi**Screenplay:** Theodore Melfi & Allison Schroeder**Cast:** Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monáe**Strength:** Screenplay, Acting**Duration:** 127min**Rating:** 8/10

PLOT: This biographical drama is heavily based on true events regarding NASA's space projects back in the early 1960s. The story follows an unlikely category of people, African-American women, who played a crucial role in making the space projects a success and making NASA what it is today. The plot revolve around Mathematician Katherine Goble (Taraji P. Henson) and two of her co-workers who are the best in their respective departments. Yet, they fail to move forward to more sophisticated and reputed designations only because they belong to the "coloured" race. The film depicts the struggles of the "coloured women" in completing their mission of making a difference and redefining the capabilities of the minor race.

REVIEW: This movie was co-written and directed by Theodore Melfi, followed by excellent perfor

mances from each noteworthy actor, especially Taraji P. Henson as Katherine Goble. The story gives a good vibe to the past, complementing the fine balance of lifestyle in the 60s. The attention to detail is marvellous; from the paint job of the cars to the equations on the board to the very last decimal, are very precisely displayed. This movie very frankly portrays the level of racism that existed at the time with no exaggeration, and gives a clear picture of how much America has changed. Rocket Science never looked any better, despite being portrayed in a simple manner. Also, Jim Parsons's role gives faith for the scientific explanations but one can't help but imagine him as Sheldon Cooper. The movie delivered the promised drama, while still keeping a classy balance of emotions and realism. The screenplay is such that you would not want to take your eyes off it. The story is true and does not fail to win our hearts with all its contents. The movie is suitable for all audiences and is definitely a "must watch".

Reviewed by Ashish Kalam

