

HINDI MOVIE REVIEW



NAAM SHABANA

Director: Shivam Nair
Screenplay: Neeraj Pandey
Cast: Taapsee Pannu, Akshay Kumar, Anupam Kher, Manoj Bajpayee
Duration: 147min
Strength: Acting
Weakness: Writing
Rating: 5/10

PLOT: The movie starts off with Shabana and Jai being in love with each other. They go on a date and on the way back four drunken guys start harassing her and in the altercation, Jai dies. Soon after Jai's death, Shabana gets a call

which asks her if she wants to avenge Jai's death. The caller agrees to give her all the information regarding the killers but in return she must join a secret agency. This is how Shabana becomes a spy and then goes on the journey of a lifetime to catch the biggest enemies of the nation.

REVIEW: Although this is a spy movie with a promising female lead, "Naam Shabana" doesn't reach the expectations it created amongst the audience. Both the story and the plot are very weak compared to its prequel "Baby". Even the most thrilling parts of the movie are very predictable, making the

viewing experience a dull one. Although the movie had all the elements of being really good, it just doesn't do the actress justice. Taapsee Pannu acted quite well in the movie. However, it was the bad writing that ruins the movie. Akshay Kumar tries to save the movie with his famous action stunts, but fails to act as a definite saving grace. One can't help but feel the direction and production could have consisted of a bit more effort, which could have made the movie actually good.

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Reviewed by Amira Amin

SULTANA BIBIANA



Director: Himel Ashraf
Cast: Bappi, Aachal, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Mamanur Rashid, Amit Hasan
Duration: 122min
Strength: Acting, Plot
Weakness: Cinematography
Rating: 5/10

PLOT: Sultan travels to a different village to learn horticulture. There he meets Shonali and falls in love with her. However, Shonali's father won't allow her marriage with Sultan. In the meantime, Shonali's father gets murdered and the blame falls on Sultan.

Sultan goes on a run to save himself from the hands of law. But both Shonali and Sultan are still in love with each other. Will they end up together or be separated by the harsh realities of the world?

REVIEW: The film portrays the lives of people that represent the rural areas of Bangladesh. The director Himel Ashraf is known for making TV series and the movie definitely felt like a series. However, it is also possible to get the impression that the director has made a full-fledged commercial film. As far as the acting goes, it is

definitely commendable. Aachal did a really good job portraying the character of a village girl. We can hope to see more of her on screen. Shahiduzzaman Selim is also a phenomenal actor and does justice to his role. The music of the film is what catches attention most. The song "Tumi Amar", sung by Nancy and Habib, is by far the best portion of the film's music. Overall, the film is only worth a watch if you are a diehard Bangla film fan.

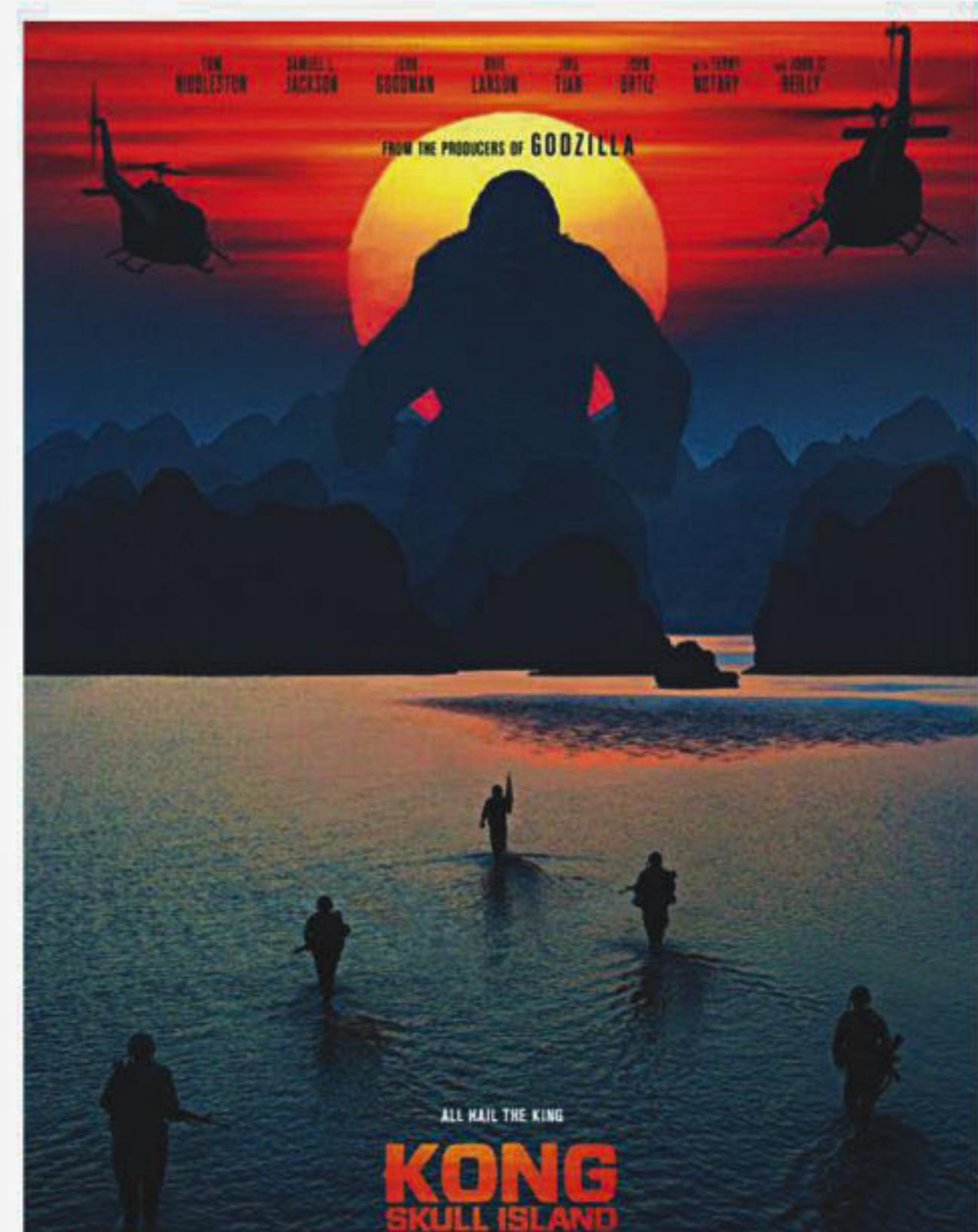
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Reviewed by Amira Amin

ENGLISH MOVIE REVIEW

KONG: SKULL ISLAND

Director: Jordan Vogt-Roberts
Cast: Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson, John Goodman, Brie Larson
Duration: 118min
Strength: Battle scenes
Weakness: Superficial screenplay
Rating: 7.5/10

PLOT: In the year 1973, twenty-nine years after World War II, a secret government association known as Monarch mounts an expedition to Skull Island, a wondrous domain in the Pacific, covered in secret; full of myster-



rious new super species unknown and unfamiliar to our world. To discover the mysterious activity of the uncharted land, led by an explorer (John Goodman) and a lieutenant colonel (Samuel L. Jackson), the group recruit an experienced soldier (Tom Hiddleston) and a photojournalist (Brie Larson). They soon learn that the Skull Island is home to King Kong, the mythical gigantic gorilla. The story eventually reveals how Kong, driven by vengeance, rises to take his throne of the most powerful creature on the island.

REVIEW: An unusual blend of super-creature movie and dirty-war film, "Kong: Skull Island" is a crisp take on a near 85-year-old classic. This is the latest version of the King Kong story, and is action packed with a lot of gigantic, roaring and crashing beasts. Expect these monsters to be grabbing attention most of the time. The lieutenant colonel's obsession with killing the mighty Kong and his compassion towards the photojournalist were vague in the movie but Jordan Vogt-Roberts' intense direction essentially compensates for the significantly sketchy screenplay. Even with the question of whether Hiddleston and Larson have the chemistry to carry us through the unavoidable sequel, this spectacular piece of entertainment is definitely worth a watch. Besides, it's always fun watching a giant gorilla perform astonishing feats of strength. Who doesn't love King Kong?

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Reviewed by Shamma Shawki Arpita