

TV SERIES REVIEW

Some More Menace in the Minnesota Snow

FATIUL HUQ SUJOY

Fargo is back at it again with what many believe is the last season to this subtly (and sometimes not so subtly) interconnected American black comedy-crime drama anthology series. If you're a fan of the first two seasons and are surprised at the lack of hype the current season is getting, don't be frightened. Hype isn't always a perfect judge for TV show quality, and it isn't in this case either.

Like its predecessors, Fargo's 3rd instalment takes place in the desolate, mundane and snowy landscape of Minnesota, USA. Also like its predecessors, this season features the theme of unsuspecting civilians with their Minnesota accents having their normal lives spiral out of control at the inclusion of circumstances and characters that are both dark and comedic.

The story starts with the rivalry of two brothers, Emmet and Ray Stussy, both played by everyone's favourite meme-able Jedi, Ewan McGregor. Ray, an unsuccessful balding middle-aged parole officer, blames his luck on his millionaire business mogul elder brother, and with his parolee-turned-lover Nikki (Mary Elizabeth Winstead aka Ramona Flowers), they plot to take vengeance.

On the other hand, Emmet is stuck with the sinister and mysterious villain of the show, V. M. Varga (David Thewlis aka Professor Remus Lupin) who so very

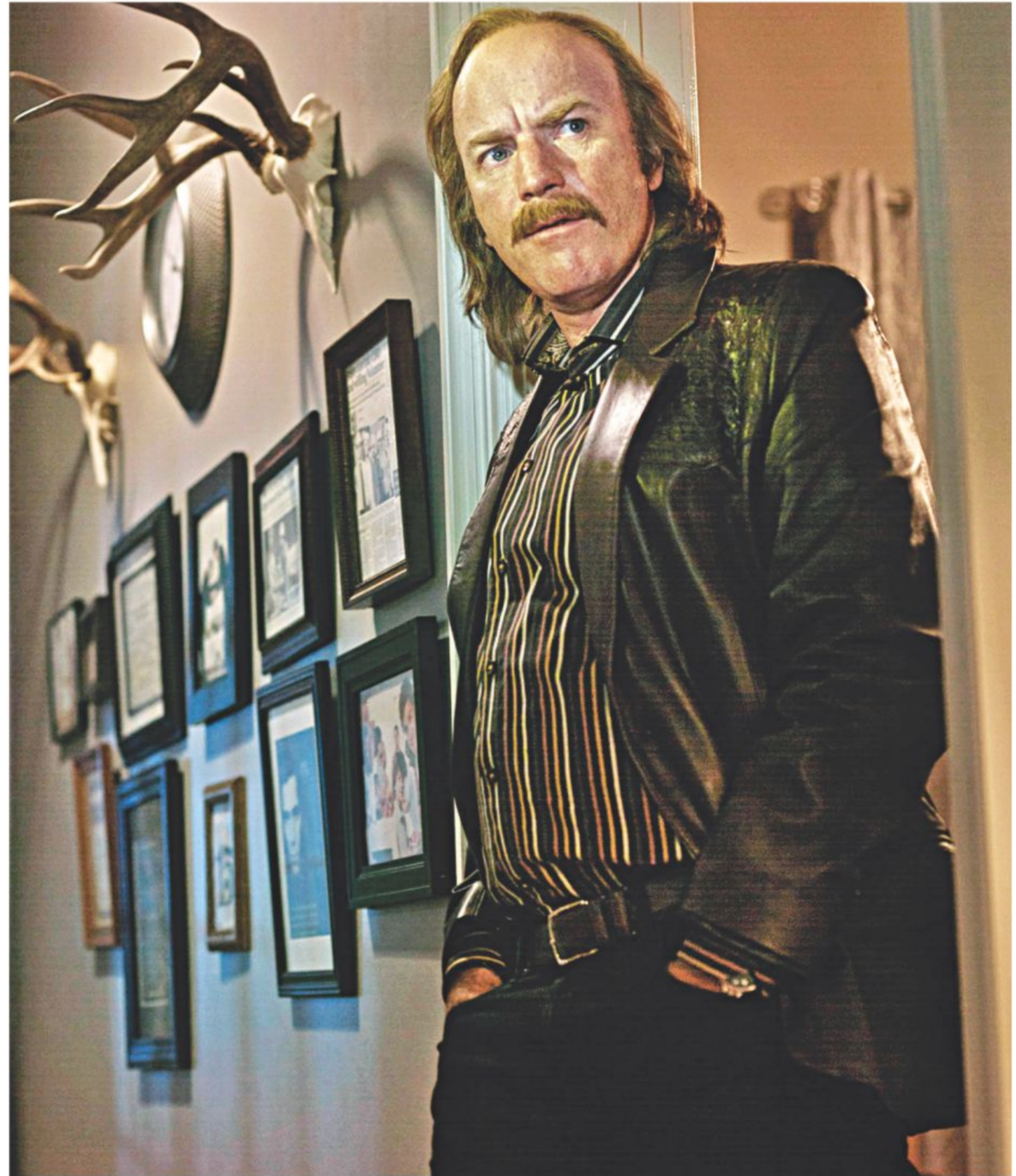
smoothly starts taking over Emmet's parking lot business with gentlemanly threats and a signature pair of hitmen. One thing leads to many other, and there's just utter chaos, confusion and blood on snow.

You'd think that what made Fargo so unique - the theme and tone - would get boring once repeated for the second time. But when an all-star cast competes with each other to present the audience with their individual best performances, and the crew behind the camera does such a marvellous job with cinematography, editing, sound and direction you'll just keep wanting more.

What makes Fargo so perfect however, in my opinion, is its pace. I've seen so many of my friends start watching the show, like the premise, lose patience at the slow plot progression and go watch a Marvel or DC show instead. But that initial slow pace is a detrimental part of the Fargo storylines; the pace symbolises the normal lives, the world that we are familiar with. It makes us delve deeper and relate. So when the world comes crashing from all end, the effect is natural yet terrifyingly moving.

If you still haven't visited the world of Fargo, don't wait.

Fatiul Huq Sujoy is a tired soul (mostly because of his frail body) who's patiently waiting for Hagrid to appear and tell him, "Ye're a saiyan, lord commander." Suggest him places to travel and food-ventures to take at [fb.com/SyedSujoy](https://www.facebook.com/SyedSujoy)



MOVIE REVIEW

Gifted: Tale of Unlikely Friendships

ANUPOMA JOYEETA JOYEE

Gifted is a heart-warming chronicle of ordinary relationships that face extraordinary ups and downs. The story itself is not one in a million, but the person it's about is.

The titular character Mary Adler (Mckenna Grace) is a sassy mathematical wunderkind being raised by her uncle Frank Adler (Chris Evans). Though his heart is in the right place, he struggles to find the right way to raise Mary. The choice between her learning to ride a bike and solving a mathematical equation worthy of a Fields Medal is entirely in his hands until Mary's grandmother Evelyn (Lindsay Duncan) comes along. Giving an exceptional child a shot at greatness comes at the price of stolen childhood, and to decide which will prevail - they both must fight. Evelyn is a textbook wealthy, ambitious mother who will leave no stone unturned to utilise Mary's gifts.

Out of his Captain America suit, Chris Evans is picture-perfect as the conflicted father figure. Grace and Evans are a

remarkably complimenting duo with radiating chemistry. Their conversations are different from what an adult and a 7-year old would generally have. The nexus is cute, interesting and opportunely funny. Jenny Slate as Frank's love interest Bonnie Stevenson who is also plays Mary's first



grade teacher offers a necessary relief from the ongoing tension. Roberta (Octavia Spencer) is the well-wisher landlady who stands with unconditional love and support by Mary's side leading to an unusual friendship worth the screen time.

Though the dichotomy between Frank

and Evelyn is the driving force of the narrative, the interactions between Mary and Frank do not go unheeded. They have regular fallouts and they pick each other up. As is predictable with movies of this genre, it has a happy ending but not before the upstaging climax. The haunt-

ingly melancholy soundtrack is backed up by the seamless acting of the adorable McKenna Grace, who rose above her lovability to a spectacle of intense emotional performance. The impeccably executed scene left a puddle on my floor. In my eyes, the moment of separation of the

unique duo truly tied the movie together. From that point on it only could get better yet by untangling the mystery of Mary's mother, who has been a major component of the storyline. Her fate at first seems quintessentially tragic as is common in prodigies. But it ends in an unanticipated way, ultimately resolving the irreconcilable differences between Frank and Evelyn.

Grace in her interviews sounds wise and charming beyond her years. Indisputably she did right by her character which in foresight should pave her path for a stellar Hollywood career. Director Marc Webb skilfully revolved the narrative around the tiny actress' natural charisma.

To conclude, Gifted is a little movie with poignant, feel-good constituents which will set you right up for some quality "me" time. For me, from start to finish, it was solid entertainment with very few fillers, if at all. Did I mention that it stars a show-stealing one-eyed misunderstood cat called Fred? To rest my case, I am not even a cat person but I might just rewind the movie to catch another glimpse of it.