

CLASSIC MOVIE

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (1952)

Director: Gene Kelly**Cast:** Gene Kelly, Donald O' Connor, Debbie Reynolds**Strength:** Story, Musical pieces, Dance numbers, Acting**Runtime:** 103min

PLOT: In 1927, Don Lockwood (Gene Kelly) and Lina Lamot (Jean Hagen) were one of the most popular onscreen duos. After the enormous success of the first talking picture *The Jazz Singer*, R.F.



Simpson decides to convert the next Lockwood and Lamont film *The Duelling Cavalier* into a talking film. Don has the perfect voice for the songs but Lina has trouble with the dialect despite her best efforts. To save the movie, R.F. Cosmo and Don decide to dub her using Kathy's voice, who Don had met while escaping his fans. While working on the movie, Don falls in love with Kathy. Upon finding this out Lina gets furious and blackmails the studio in keeping Kathy in the shadow to dub her in future productions. Eventually, the truth is revealed when Lina faces no choice but to sing to the audience.

REVIEW: This musical film is without a doubt one of the most joyful movies ever made. In 1952, Kelly and O'Connor were established actors but Debbie Reynolds was a fresher with five previous small roles. Nonetheless, they nailed each and every dance numbers in the movie and performed incredibly. O'Connor's *Make 'em Laugh* is still considered as one of the most amazing dance sequences ever filmed. Kelly in the *Singin' in the Rain* number showed what a glorious feeling it is to fall in love. He doesn't mind getting wet as he is besotted with romance.

The climax ingeniously uses strategies to take down Lina and celebrate the fresh-faced Kathy. Later, Kathy and Don kiss in front of a billboard for their new film *Singin' in the Rain*. As corny as it was, it was just perfect! Dance numbers, music pieces, storyline, acting; everything reflected originality. As entertaining it was to watch, the movie was not just limited to music and romance, it showed a crucial transition of the industry where it transitioned from silent to talking movies. Considering the effort put behind making this movie and the themes it represented, *Singin' in the Rain* has established itself as a definitive classic since its release more than 60 years ago.

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Reviewed by Shamma Shawki Arpita



FILM REVIEW

WAR OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

Director: Matt Reeves**Screenplay:** Mark Bomback, Matt Reeves**Cast:** Andy Serkis, Woody Harrelson, Steve Zahn**Duration:** 140min**Rating:** 8/10

PLOT: When the apes endure unfathomable misfortunes, Caesar (Andy Serkis), the leader of his kind, decides to seek revenge by fighting against the ferocious Colonel. He begins his journey to avenge the death of his dearest son and wife with a few friends while the remaining apes depart to cross the desert to find a new home. In the end, Caesar and the ruthless Colonel are hollowed against each

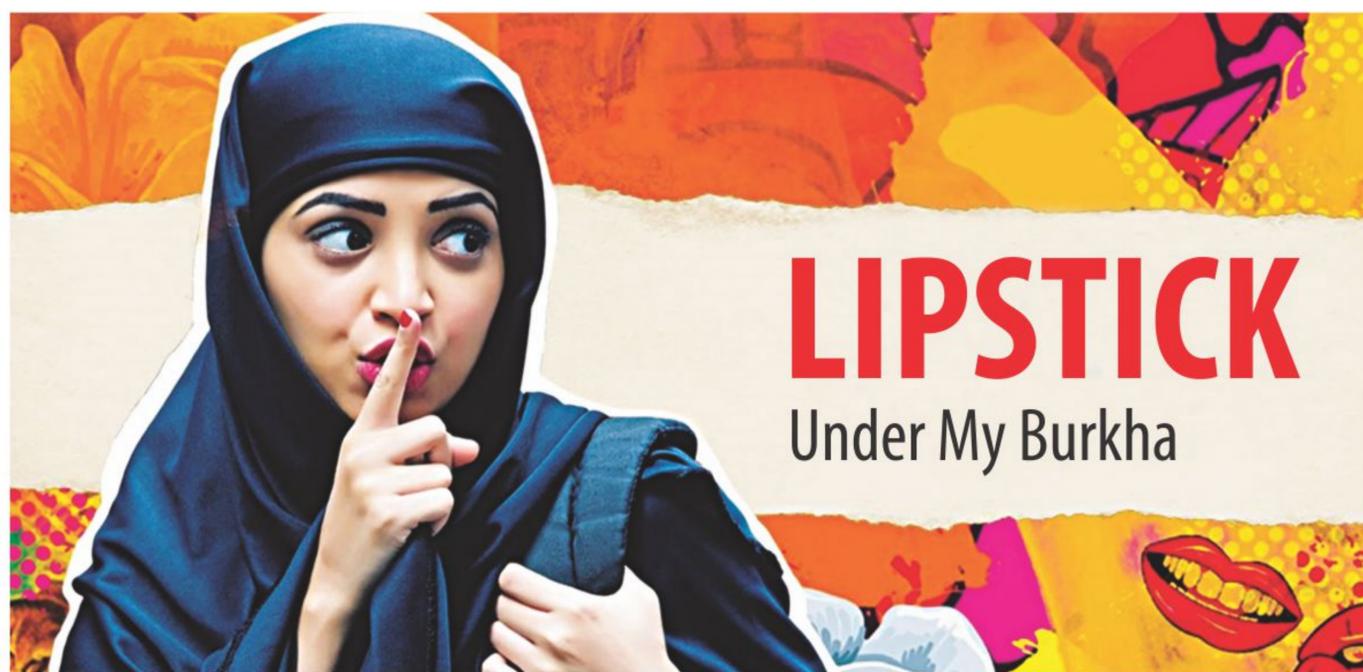
other in an epic fight that will decide the destiny of both their species and the eventual fate of the planet.

REVIEW: Directed by Matt Reeves, *War of the Planet of the Apes* is the third rebooted trilogy which is already being considered as the best among the three sequels because of its spectacular casting and action sequences. The movie isn't just about the war between the apes and the soldiers. It also depicts how fear can cause enslavement and that unification is the only way by which we can overcome our fears to fight back.

Andy Serkis manages to surpass

his previous performances as Caesar, who is the leader of the apes who seek vengeance against humans. The viewers have also appreciated the acting skills of Woody Harelson who plays the role of the leader of the human soldiers. Out of all the other elements that have entitled *War of the Planet of the Apes* as being the best movie of this trilogy, the visual effects used were simply outstanding and genuine. If you have enjoyed watching the first two films of this trilogy, you should definitely give this one a try.

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Reviewed by Rushabah Tabassum

**Director:** Alankrita Shrivastava**Screenplay:** Alankrita Shrivastava**Cast:** Konkona Sen Sharma, Ratna Pathak Shah, Ahana Kumra, Plabita Borthakur**Strength:** Realistic storyline**Duration:** 132min**Rating:** 7.5/10

PLOT: Four different women are trapped in their worlds with desires through acts of rebellion. One is a college girl who struggles with her aspiration to be a pop singer; one is a young beautician who seeks to escape the claustrophobia of her community; one is a housewife who wants to grow wings; and the last one is a 55-year old widow who is free to love and lust. Different stories are told from the

perspectives of these four women.

REVIEW: *Lipstick Under My Burkha* is an absolutely brilliant work by director Alankrita Shrivastava. This movie is a narrative of unfulfilled female desires. The word "lipstick" has been used as a metaphor which means 'true color'. It shows how women are bound by tradition and by the rules of their inner lives. The film depicts the frustration of women and how, in their own little way, they are extremely daring.

Lipstick Under My Burkha is a controversial movie because of the difference it aims to portray. Nonetheless, it has an absolutely brilliant style of storytelling that alone makes it impressive. The movie is mainly based on four

women, their lives and sexual desires. It pictured their sacrifices, desires, dreams, aspirations and ambitions. Everything that is showed is true and it happens in society. The actors portrayed their roles amazingly but Ratna Pathak Shah, specifically, delivered a flawless performance. Her character, Buaji, tells us how dreams can keep us alive and that age is just a number. The ending of the movie could have been much better but it is realistic nonetheless. The movie is an eye opener. It echoes the thought of most women and demasks the society.

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Reviewed by Saqiba Nawshin Junnurine