

CLASSIC MOVIE

APUR SANSAR (1959)

Director: Satyajit Ray
Screenplay: Satyajit Ray
Cast: Soumitra Chatterjee, Sharmila Tagore, Alkoe Chakravarty, Shapan Mukherjee
Duration: 107min

PLOT: Graduate but jobless Apu is writing a novel based on his life. One day his life takes a sudden turn when he meets his old friend Pulu. He takes Apu to his village to attend the wedding of her cousin Aparna. On the wedding day the bridegroom turns out to be a mental patient and the wedding gets cancelled. Apu, out of sympathy, agrees to be the substitute groom. Thus begins a love story that eventually ends up in tragedy.

REVIEW: Apur Sansar is adopted from famous novelist Bibhutibushan Banerjee's 1930 novel based on Indian lifestyle. It is the final movie of the 'Apu' trilogy; which consists of *Pather Panchali*, *Aparajito* and *Apur Sansar*; all legend-



ary movies in their own rights. Also, all three of them are directed by Satyajit Ray.

This film is a masterpiece of Ray. Apu leads a vagabond life who wants to be famous by writing his own novel. One day he gets married to his friend Pulu's cousin Aparna and the story goes on in a dramatic fashion. It is a very simple story, but the wonderful portrayal by Ray made it a very enjoyable watch. This movie had everything in it. It had dreams of two people who are madly in love with each other, tragedy and a powerful ending. The actors bring reality into the movie. In the role of Apu, Soumitra Chatterjee is timid and superb. He is the perfect extension of Apu as a grownup. Sharmila Tagore is without a doubt a powerhouse actress. This film introduced her to cinema. The plot conveys in simple symbols of the unbending swing of life and death. Last but not least, the music of this movie is composed by none other than Pandit Ravi Shankar. Apur Sansar is one of the most legendary evergreen Bengali movies ever made. It is a must watch for all types of movie lovers.

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Reviewed by Saqiba Nawshin Junnurine



Director: Christopher Nolan
Producer: Emma Thomas, Christopher Nolan
Cast: Fionn Whitehead, Tom Glynn-Carney, Jack Lowden, Harry Styles
Strength: Screenplay
Duration: 106min
Rating: 8/10

PLOT: When the Germans invaded France in May 1940, thousands of allied troops were stranded on the shorelines of Dunkirk. The stranded soldiers were to be captured by the Germans as they had nowhere to go but with little help they cleared out without any further delay. Utilizing each and every functional maritime along with non-military personnel naval, almost 330,000 soldiers from the

British Empire, Belgium and France were gradually evacuated from the shoreline. The German Air Force were in charge of preventing this evacuation but it was repealed later on, which gave the allied soldiers enough time to evacuate and prepare themselves for the raging war afterwards.

REVIEW: Dunkirk is a 2017 war movie based on true historical events of the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940 during World War II. Dunkirk has received substantial praise from critic, many deeming it as the most impressive work of Christopher Nolan yet, as well as acclaiming it as one of the best war movies ever made. Nolan covered the full event of the evacuation, including scenes

from the land, air and the English Channel which included uncountable action scenes.

Special sound effects were used in the film to create a thrilling and stimulating experience for the viewers and the graphics were beyond imagination. Nolan did an amazing job with the screenplay and even used elements such as boats which were used during the actual Dunkirk evacuation. The whole imagery of the war felt real throughout the film because of the appropriate equipment used according to the epoch. The action sequences were truly electrifying and captivating. For any movie lover out there, Dunkirk is a must watch.

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Reviewed by Rushabah Tabassum

Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets

Director: Luc Besson
Screenplay: Luc Besson
Cast: Dane DeHaan, Cara Delevingne, Clive Owen, Rihanna
Strength: Visual effects
Weakness: Plot, Acting
Runtime: 138min
Rating: 3.5/10

PLOT: Set in the 28th century, special operatives Valerian and his partner Laureline is given the task of keeping order and peace in a metropolis named Alpha, which harbors a thousand species. When a dark force threatens the entirety of Alpha, Valerian and Laureline embarks on a journey to safeguard their home.

REVIEW: Based on the French comic that, in essence, brought sci-fi to life, Valerian starts with a brilliant opening that identifies scientific advancement throughout centuries which gradually build the utopian society named Alpha, where both humans and aliens live together in complete harmony. Besson's adaptation brings forth a visually stunning creation that is both riveting and simplistic, following the characters of Valerian (Dane DeHaan) and his partner

Laureline (Cara Delevingne), who are given the task of obliterating any threats to Alpha and its future. Besson draws an excellent paradigm of scenery, where his characters jump from one episodic event to another, resulting in a complete eye candy for viewers.



However, Besson's adaptation doesn't extend much further than just a visual creation. Him writing his own script has caused a massive rupture in his previous cinematic excellence, as this movie does not have a concrete plot and viewers will be continuously asking what the actual purpose of the characters

is. The dialogues lack authenticity and fail to create emotion in the viewers, with no help from the actors themselves. The acting from both the actors is nothing short of disappointing, where their supposed romance is meager in chemistry. Besson ultimately fails at characterization as neither the characters have their personalities fully developed. The aliens seem to be the only ones who can generate feelings of pathos within the viewers, and thus viewers may find themselves more attached to the aliens than the humans.

Valerian is not a movie for those seeking a philosophical or moral eye-opener, but rather a movie for those who just want to get comfy with popcorn in hand. Besson definitely had a plethora of things that, if altered, would have caused this movie to be a box office phenomenon. However, his creativity and dedication should be appreciated as he is marvelous in creating a utopian community in an utterly dystopian era.

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Reviewed by Anindita Hossain Rhine