

MOVIE REVIEW

Tribute to a mother-daughter bond

MITHI CHOWDHURY

I have a love-hate relationship with the coming-of-age genre. Blame it on excessive binges of John Hughes duds in the 90s (*Pretty in Pink*, *Sixteen Candles*), but I've grown weary of them. Apart from gems such as *American Honey* and *Boyhood*, both of which reimagined conventional "coming-of-age" dramas, most lack originality, relying on formulaic plotlines to drive the story forward.

And then came *Lady Bird* to jolt me out of my cynicism. Greta Gerwig's solo directorial debut is a reminder that no genre is monotonous as long as there's a bold artist with a fresh perspective.

Christine McPherson (Saoirse Ronan) is a high school senior who wants to go to college on the East Coast "where culture is." According to her mother, Marion (Laurie Metcalf), it's too far from home and anything beyond what her family could afford. But Christine is adamant -- she jumps out of a moving car in protest when her mother tries to disregard her aspirations. She's stubborn, hilariously candid and deeply aware of what she wants in life. For instance, she prefers to be called "Lady Bird", a name "given to me by me," she explains. Loosely based on Gerwig's own experiences, the story follows Christine as she navigates life in



Sacramento, California in the early 2000s.

In *Christine*, Gerwig creates such a refreshing and honest portrayal of adolescence that she had me reminiscing about my teenage years. Her struggles with insecurity, self-acceptance, and the opposite sex are at once utterly relatable and laughably absurd. Ronan has been a force to be reckoned with for years; she's already won a Golden Globe for her performance and an Oscar win may just be written in the stars. Metcalf delivered

in equal measure, as only an actress of her stature could. She steals the show as the overprotective, uncompromising mother who wholly believes she has her daughter's best interests (sound familiar?).

At its core, *Lady Bird* is an ode to the messy, complicated, heartfelt and wildly bipolar love affair between a mother and daughter. There are moments when the bond between the two is so strong that it becomes palpable. The scene where

Christine asks her mother if she likes her while shopping for a prom dress is startlingly familiar, as every child who's ever sought their mother's approval can attest. Then there are moments when neither holds back, hurling unbelievably hurtful words at each other like missiles. You will often hate Marion with a burning passion but quickly jump to her defence (like Christine) when she's misunderstood. You will empathise with Christine while struggling to understand her various idiosyncrasies. The relationship between the leading characters is as tumultuous as the relationship you develop with the characters on-screen.

Greta Gerwig's attention to details resonates throughout; the soundtrack, clothing, and interactions reflect the cultural mindset in post-9/11 America. As the director and screenwriter, her emotional acuity is evident in the dialogue and nuances of attitude displayed by the characters. Gerwig truly outdid herself, a feat that would've been impossible without the support of such a phenomenal cast.

Go on. Just watch the movie already!

Mithi Chowdhury is a dog-loving-movie-watching-mediocrity-fearing normal person. Either that or a penguin. Find out at mithichy612@gmail.com

Types of comments on memes

WASIQUE HASAN

I love a good meme as much as the next person, but sometimes the comments on memes end up being more entertaining than the source material. This is why today we're going to celebrate some of the more memorable comments you'll come across while grazing on the pastures of dank. If you've ever commented similar things on memes, then great, I guess. What do you want, a medal?

The "no response": This is a person who has made the grave mistake of trusting someone they shouldn't. You'll see them hovering around most topical memes, tagging people. Unfortunately, the people they tag probably don't agree with them, since their tags remain unanswered and unnoticed. Let us observe a moment of silence, in the hopes that one day someone will put this person out of their misery and grace them with a response.

Um, actually: Some people aren't very good at humour. For them, a meme isn't something to be enjoyed and laughed at -- it's yet another opportunity to show the world how *smart* they are. These are the people who will comment "The earth isn't actually flat" on a



flat earth meme. Thanks for stating the obvious, even though everyone already knows the earth is a hexagon. Or maybe they make a PSA to tell people not to eat Tide pods. The world would be a better place if these people stopped commenting and just enjoyed the memes.

Grammar Nazi: These people are a sub-genre of the "Um, actually" group. Maybe don't hate on them, since I've also been guilty of correcting "your" and "you're". I'm sorry but IT'S NOT THAT DIFFICULT, OKAY?

Man (or woman) of culture: The



optimal target audience for memes, these people of culture are proper meme lords. They accentuate the quality of a meme by incorporating other memes into it through the comment section. The most common types are reactions like (X) Doubt, but sometimes they can go off on a tangent and make a relatable meme on the spot. It takes a significant amount of creativity to pull off these comments, and I take my hat off (actually no I don't, it's cold) to you if you're one of them.

Queens of the Stone Age cypypasta: You know what I'm talking about -- I'm

not going to waste 150 words writing down the Rick and Morty cypypasta. It's not the only cypypasta you'll see in the comments, but it is the funniest (or most annoying, depending on how many times you've seen it).

A n g e r y s q u a d: If you thought the "Um, actually" were bad at humour, you haven't met these people. Humour is extremely subjective, so what one person finds funny another might find boring. That is fine, and so is letting people know how much you disliked a meme. The problem starts when you start to insist your taste in humour is the only acceptable variant, and report memes that don't fit this description. People have as much right to make a meme as you do to not enjoy it. Next time before you hit the big ol' Report button, maybe take a breather and realise you should let people enjoy their own brand of humour?

Be sure to show this article to all your friends, and shame them for what they comment. Let's be honest, that is the *only* reason you're reading this.

With a heart of ash and a PC of potato, Wasique Hasan could use some help. Send some memes to cheer him up at [facebook.com/hasique.wasan](https://www.facebook.com/hasique.wasan)