

MOVIES

NAPOLEON

A thrilling portrayal of a tyrannical man but leaves a lot to be desired

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For a historical film, success or failure is defined by how well-built the storyline is. Condensing 30 years worth of political drama, war, and an enigmatic personality within 150 minutes was always going to be a tough task, but the screenwriters carried out their job to perfection. From the Reign of Terror to Napoleon's disgraced final days in St. Helena – the storytelling was at its fast-paced, chronological best. *Napoleon* also delivered well-choreographed battle

sequences which were filled with tense energy.

As far as the acting is concerned, Joaquin Phoenix's gritty performance depicts an accurate picture of Napoleon's persona. *Napoleon* showed us the former French Emperor's evolution from an ambitious artillery officer, an intense, exasperated lover to a ruthless, power-hungry dictator who lost it all in the end. For her part, Vanessa Kirby deserves acclaim playing Napoleon's wife Josephine. Watching her performance,



I couldn't help but wonder just how good it could've been if her character was developed properly. However, there are historical inaccuracies. Napoleon was younger than his wife, and it wasn't Josephine who first asked for a divorce. He also wasn't present during Queen Marie Antoinette's execution, nor did he meet the Duke of Wellington after his defeat in Waterloo. To Ridley Scott's credit, *Napoleon* delivered resoundingly in certain aspects, but by far-and-large, it left much to be desired.



OPPORTUNITIES

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