

MOVIES

SUPERMAN

soars into new territory by unearthing the hero's true essence

SABIL SADAT ZAHIR

James Gunn's long-awaited reboot of *Superman* serves as not only a reinvention of the Man of Steel but also a reinvention of how superhero stories are told on the big screen. While it is not a perfect movie, it is, however, a perfect representation of the hope and optimism that the character has come to represent.

The story revolves around Superman after he deals with the aftermath of stopping a war between the nations of Boravia and Jarhanpur, while his archenemy Lex Luthor, conspires behind the scenes.

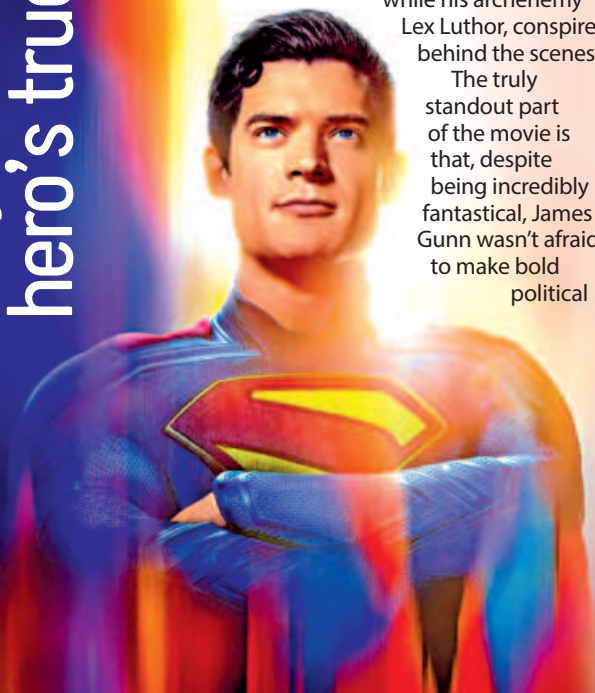
The truly standout part of the movie is that, despite being incredibly fantastical, James Gunn wasn't afraid to make bold political

statements. The conflict between the fictional countries, Boravia and Jarhanpur, is an obvious commentary on the Israeli occupation of Palestine. To witness what is essentially a very pro-Palestinian message take such centre stage in a Hollywood superhero blockbuster is nothing short of revolutionary.

David Corenswet gives an outstanding performance in portraying the duality of Superman and Clark Kent. This Superman works to change the status quo of the world and deeply cares about the sanctity of life. Rachel Brosnahan's Lois Lane also works as a great contrast to Clark, and that's what makes their growing romance incredibly compelling. Besides the titular hero, Nicholas Hoult provides the best performance in the movie as Lex Luthor, who is a villain driven solely by pure hatred.

There are, however, some issues with the film – the most prominent being the pacing. With the movie set in a world already populated with heroes, it doesn't spend enough time on world-building and exposition. The movie would have greatly benefited from a slightly longer runtime; the lack of which specifically takes away from some of the emotional moments. A lot of the humour also does not land, and there are a few strange story choices and lore changes.

Superman conveys a message about kindness, hope, and how our choices represent who we are. It dares to tread on themes no other superhero movie comes close to, and tethers the character to his roots as a "Champion of the oppressed".



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