

The Communication of Ideas in Art and Cinema

My wife Karen and I are film buffs. Our entertainment of choice is almost always enjoying movies together because it is a cheap and engrossing art form which allows us a chance for a stimulating experience that we can talk about afterwards. Although the cinematic potential for enduring imagery and content is sometimes a "crapshoot", we may or may not choose a film because of current hype or trailers. We do have our preferences when it comes to genre, and though open minded, we lean towards films that take us to places or subjects that are believable, unique and original.

We don't care for contemporary horror movies and avoid films which present gratuitous violence as entertainment. Karen dislikes animated films, and loves films based upon true human dramas. I dislike historical period fiction, and love well crafted sci-fi, but of course we each acquiesce on occasion. We like foreign language films, although our TV is not quite large enough for subtitles to be read easily. We equally abhor comedies that rely on base sophomoric humor, and find comedy the most difficult genre in which to find worthwhile films. For the most part, we watch our movies at home on Friday nights; although we do go to the theatre for the big screen experience a number of times each year.

Using a five star system we have the last five

Number	FILM TITLE	ACTORS	TYPE	STAR RATING
BRUCE & KAREN'S HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE FILM REVIEWS				
1	Lincoln	Tommy Lee Jones, Daniel Day Lewis	Historical Drama	5
2	Herb and Dorothy		Documentary	4.5
3	Touchback	Kurt Russell	Drama	3.5
4	Looper	Bruce Willis	Sci Fi	3.5
5	Win Win	Paul Giamatti/Bobby Cannavale/Amy Ryan	Drama	4
6	The Conspirator	James McAvoy/Robin Wright/ Justin Long	Drama	3.5
7	Hanna	Scoobie Ronan	Action	5
8	Atlas Shrugged	Taylor Schilling/Paul Johansson	Drama	3.5
9	Father of Invention	Kevin Spacey	Drama	3
10	Bridesmaids	Cristin Wlia, Maya Rudolph, Melissa McCarthy	Comedy	5
11	Life in a Day	Assorted	Documentary?	1
12	Water for Elephants	Robert Pattinson/Reese Witherspoon	Drama	3
13	The Ledge	T.Howard/Liv Taylor/C. Hunnam/P. Wilson	Drama	4.5
14	Rise of the Planet of the Apes	James Franco/Freida Pinto/John Lithgow	Sci Fi	3
15	The Help	Emma Stone/Octavia Spencer/Viola Davis	Drama	4.5
16	Cowboys and Aliens	Harrison Ford	Sci Fi	3
17	Money Ball	Brad Pitt	Drama	5
18	Another Earth	William Macomber/Britt Marling	Sci Fi	4
19	Ideas of March	George Clooney	Drama	4.5
20	The Debt	Helen Mirren	Action/Drama	5
21	Bad Teacher	Cameron Diaz	Comedy	1.5
22	The Whistleblower	Michael Caine	Drama	5
23	Puncture	Chris Evans/Mark Kassen	Drama	0
24	Larry Crowne	Tom Hanks	Comedy	4.5
25	Faces in the Crowd	Mila Jovanovich	Action/Drama	4.5
26	The Sunset Limited	Sam L Jackson	Action/Drama	3
27	The Descendants	George Clooney/ Beau Bridges	Drama	3.5
28	Tower Heist	Ben Stiller/ Eddie Murphy	Comedy	4
29	Space in Between	Melissa Leo	Drama	4
30	Hugo	Ben Kingsley	Storybook Drama	4.5
31	Uncle Boonmee		The Film Drama	0.5
32	Catch 44	Bruce Willis	Action	1.5
33	A Week with Marilyn	Michele Williams/Judi Dench/Ken Branagh	Fiction Documentary	4

critiqued most of the 300± films we have seen together in years. Each film score is an average of our two ratings. For reference, I keep a growing film database on my computer that lists the Titles, Actors, Genre, and our color coded Star Rating for the films we have watched.

Last night we watched a new film that we both loved. I'd call it a "sleeper" because I hadn't heard about it until I pulled it off the shelf at the video store. (We really recommend this film, if you love the arts. Although we gave ★★★★★ to "words and pictures", we'd be interested in hearing your thoughts. We found it to have one of the best dramatizations challenging us to think about the value of art that we have seen. This is a wonderful film... check it out!

I pulled up this NY Times review from back in May,* which is also worth reading: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/23/movies/clive-owen-and-juliette-binoche-star-in-words-and-pictures.html?_r=0

AND, check this too...

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/18/movies/juliette-binoche-brings-own-art-to-words-and-pictures.html?_r=0

For my artist friends, you will find it interesting to note that Juliette Binoche, who plays an abstract painter in her role... actually paints the impressive works that appear in the movie. If you follow with the DVD bonus extras you also learn that Clive Owen, who plays the adversarial poet in the film, apparently has a unique gift for memorization that amplifies his extraordinary role as a poet and writing teacher in the film.

*New release films come slowly to NH!!



Special Note: I would like to invite all of my friends in the upstate region of New York to visit the The Bertha V.B. Lederer Gallery at SUNY Geneseo to see "Landscape Today and Tomorrow", a juried group show in which I have work being exhibited through October 7th. For more information go to: http://www.geneseo.edu/galleries/current_lederer