

I have a new favorite bad movie, but it will take a few paragraphs to explain why.

The film: 2011's *In Time*, starring 2011's Justin Timberlake and 2011's Amanda Seyfried.

The director: Andrew Niccol, best known for *Gattaca*.

The badness:

1.) In this film, time is money ("Whoa..."). You have a finite amount of time left in your life, which is displayed on a digital clock built into your wrist.

2.) You can earn more time, or you can give some your time to somebody else, but if your time runs out, you die immediately. When you're giving or taking time, the clock makes a harsh noise that sounds like a cat quietly throwing up in the corner of a room, but everyone seems to accept that as normal so I won't complain.

3.) When you run out of time and die, you make a goofy sound effect and fall over hilariously. One thing this movie does have going for it is that since most of us have had a lifetime of playing video games, just watching a character struggle as a clock winds down can be exciting. Not in itself, but it may remind you of exciting things.

4.) As is often the case, the wealthy and powerful hoard all the time, whereas the average person only has enough time to live day by day.

5.) Justin Timberlake plays the everyman. He is so talented and handsome that the idea of him as an everyman may seem ridiculous on its face, but it does help that in addition to being clocked he seems to have had his charisma removed.

6.) Timberlake lives with his mother, played by Olivia Wilde. Note: in this future everyone's appearance freezes at age twenty-five. What this means practically is that

Timberlake's mother is played by an actress three years younger than Timberlake. It never stops being strange.

7.) Timberlake arrives home to find that he is too late to refill Wilde's time doohickey and she has died. Timberlake swears revenge on the system, and luckily for him, he suddenly inherits a large amount of time and buys his way into the heart of privilege to mess things up.

8.) Timberlake confronts titan of industry Vincent Kartheiser and his rebellious daughter Amanda Seyfried. Now remember, all these people are played by twenty-five year olds. No matter how hard the movie tries to make them look ominous, they all come off as Great Gatsby cosplayers.

9.) Now that you know that a titan of industry's rebellious daughter is involved, you should be able to take it from there. Does Timberlake kidnap Seyfried, watch her hatred of him turn to love, and then set off on a Bonnie and Clyde-like vengeance against the elite? Spoiler alert: yes.

10.) I'm sure you can tell that the bizarre logic of this movie has transfixed me, but it would not be as funny as it is if it weren't for the self-serious tone. If you find yourself getting bored, just wait a couple of minutes and the movie will deliver a new time-based pun which isn't funny, or over-explain another societal metaphor which isn't profound. Roger Ebert once said that a movie isn't what it's about but how it's about it; this isn't my favorite bad movie because it's about something baffling, but because it chooses the most comically tone-deaf way possible to express that bafflement. It never quite works when a movie tries to show the plight of a suffering underclass through actors who are too young and handsome for the part, and in 2011 no one was younger or handsomer than Justin Timberlake and Amanda Seyfried.

What's your newest favorite bad movie? Put it in the comments.