

Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning Review

What I liked about the movie:

- The stunt work was incredible. Tom Cruise did push himself for this movie.
- The action sequences were the best.
- The Cinematography was also great. I would recommend seeing this one on an IMAX screen.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The story needed a lot of work. It took an hour to an hour and a half to get interested in the movie.
- The villain was also weak.
- There were unnecessary storyline points that didn't work in the film.
- Spoiler:

Overall thoughts:

This is not the strongest film in the series and did really end in a bang as I would have thought. But the film did a good job with call backs to older films in the series. Tom Cruise does a great job anchoring this movie and his supporting characters do a great job in this film. It does seem the actors are enjoying the movie and do seem to be just phoning it in. Overall the movie is just a macguffin chase for nearly 3 hours and that is an issue for the story. I feel like I am done with this franchise and don't want another mission impossible film.

Rating: 7/10

Lilo & Stitch (2025)

What I liked about the movie:

- Stitch's character was true to the original film.
- The actress playing Lilo was adorable.
- The film was funny.
- The new characters were also good in the film.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The casting of Zak Galifianakis didn't work for me.
- Would have liked Ving Rhames to have been cast in some role.
- The ending of the film did work for me as I felt it went against the overall message of the original film

Overall thoughts:

I thought it was a fine remake of the original film, my main concern is the ending of the film. I felt it went against the message of the original film. The overall film is fine, I just didn't like that ending. I do find it funny the original film was released the same week as a Tom Cruise movie (Minority Report). It makes me curious if Disney has beef with Tom Cruise.

Rating: 6/10

Friendship

What I liked about the movie:

- The comedy of the film was great. It was mainly embarrassment humor.
- The performances were great.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- Felt you knew where the film was going and made it hard to watch in some cases.
- The film had some issues with reality and the film didn't do a good job helping the audience know what was real and what was not.

Overall thoughts:

The great performances and comedy of this film carry it and deal with most of its problems. Overall I really enjoyed this film and that is saying something as I am not the biggest fan of awkward embarrassment humor.

Rating: 9/10

Brink Her Back

Extreme Gore warning. I did feel like walking out of this movie as the disturbing gore was extreme. This is the same directing team of Talk to Me, if you could handle that film then you can likely deal with this one.

What I liked about the movie:

- The story and characters were good.
- The themes of grief and loss are handled well in this movie.
- Sally Hawkins gives an award level performance, unfortunately since this is a genre film I don't think it will get award consideration.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The supernatural part of the film could have used a little more explanation, I would concede this point on argument.
- I question if the gore in this film was needed completely for the story, again another point I can concede.

Overall thoughts:

The great performances and horror of this film were great. I really enjoyed this directing team's last movie Talk to Me and this was another great film. I look forward to watching their next film.

Rating: 10/10

Ballerina

What I liked about the movie:

- Fighting sequences were very well done.
- Anna De Armas gave a good performance.
- Seeing Keanu Reeves as John Wick.
- Lance Reddick's Final performance was good as well.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The main villain could have been flushed out better.
- The story needed some work.

Overall thoughts:

The concept of the villains of this film was interesting but underdeveloped. The story was predictable, and the twist you could see coming. Overall though this was a good entry to the John Wick universe. It might be beneficial to review some of the later John Wick Films as this one takes place during the 3rd film but before the 4th film. Overall if you enjoyed the John Wick movies you will enjoy this one.

Rating: 8/10

Dangerous Animals

Mild Gore warning: the movie has some gore, but not as extreme as Bring Her Back

What I liked about the movie:

- I love shark movies and this one plays tribute to Jaws.
- Jai Courtney and Hassie Harrison give great performances.
- I overall liked the story of the film.
- Underwater footage from the first part of the film was incredible.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- Jai Courtney gives one too many monologues about sharks and it was a comedy.

Overall thoughts:

I love shark movies and this movie does something different with the concept. I feel there were minor issues with the story, but overall I enjoyed this film.

Rating: 9/10

Karate Kid: Legends

What I liked about the movie:

- I liked the performances from the actors.
- I liked the characters and connections to previous Karate Kid movie
- Martial Arts were well done.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The movie felt really rushed and I feel characters would have been better served with more time to develop.

Overall thoughts:

Overall it is a decent movie in the similar vein as the previous movies. I felt there was too much going on and it was too rushed. I think the main story didn't really address the character problems.

Rating: 6/10

How to Train Your Dragon (2025)

What I liked about the movie:

- The film was faithful to the original movie.
- Gerard Butler reprised his role and gave a great performance.
- The dragon CGI look great. The queen dragon looked much better than in the original.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- This film really didn't add anything major to the original.

Overall thoughts:

Overall this is really just the original movie done in live action. It is faithful to the original and I find myself not as mad as I was with the Lilo remake. There is really only one change I liked with Snotlout's story, but outside of that there wasn't anything. That being said I would have been mad had this film change the message of the original like Lilo did.

Rating: 9/10

The Life of Chuck

What I liked about the movie:

- The last act of the movie was great
- The performances were good. It was good to see Mia Sara return to acting.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- I hated the structure of the story going in reverse order.
- I thought the movie's first act was completely irrelevant, and the second was mostly pointless.
- I thought the major issue of the movie was not addressed in the story.

Overall thoughts:

This is a very well acted and directed movie. Mike Flanagan is a good director and has done well with Stephen King material. I truly only get mad at a movie if it shows contempt for the audience. I feel this story really does do this. I don't blame the crew, this movie is a faithful adaptation of the source material. I really only like $\frac{1}{3}$ of this movie, the last act, which is the beginning of the story. I can't really discuss my issues with this film without spoilers, but I will say I believe I'm in the minority and many like this film.

Rating: 3/10

Materialists

What I liked about the movie:

- The performances were good.
- It had a decent story.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- It really didn't differ too much from a normal romantic movie.
- I was a little disappointed as this director's last movie, *Past Lives*, was a great film and this film felt more mainstream and normal.

Overall thoughts:

It's a pretty straightforward romantic film and if that's what you're looking for, it will deliver. I am likely judging this film more harshly as I really loved this director's last film and that is likely biasing me against this film. I think this film will likely speak better with its intended audience, which I don't believe I am in.

Rating: 6/10

28 Years Later

What I liked about the movie:

- This film was well shot and it was good to revisit the 28 universe again.
- The performances were good and the kid actor was good.
- The zombies did feel threatening

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The film's trailer advertised a different film than what this film was.
- This is part one and while it does end, I would have liked a conclusion like the other films in the franchise.
- The opening prologue I found was not really needed in the film.

Overall thoughts:

This was one of the films I was most looking forward to this year. I do feel this is a decent film, but it did not live up to the others in the franchise and left me not really wanting the second part.

Rating: 6/10

Elio

What I liked about the movie:

- Strong story.
- Good Characters
- It was a good vision of an alien world

What I didn't like about the movie:

- You can see where this film is going and well the story is good, it is predictable.

Overall thoughts:

Solid kid movie, with a good story and characters. It was entertaining, but I didn't feel the same emotional connection as I have with other Pixar Films.

Rating: 8/10

F1 The Movie

What I liked about the movie:

- Beautiful cinematography, if you can watch in IMAX, I would.
- Strong story and made me interested in racing, which is not something I like.
- Good characters made me invested in the story.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- I don't fully understand racing rules and this film didn't explain the very well.
- You can argue this is a commercial for F1 racing, but I don't feel this a detractor.

Overall thoughts:

This director has given some of my favorite movies: Tron Legacy and Top Gun Maverick, and this film did deliver. Some may say it is very predictable and nothing special, I can see that argument but in the current movie landscape I will take that over the same old complex east coast indy movie.

Rating: 10/10

M3GAN 2.0

What I liked about the movie:

- Comedy worked well in this movie
- I like the megan robot and this film delivers that character.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- Bad story and predictable villain.
- PG-13 over the previous R content. Kills and gore are not in this movie as with the previous film.

Overall thoughts:

This film is more of a comedy than the original horror movie of the first film. It felt like the human characters were just going through the motions and not delivering anything interesting.

Rating: 5/10

Jurassic World Rebirth

What I liked about the movie:

- Most of the normal Dinosaurs looked good, the D Rex being the exception.
- Good tension throughout the film.
- Dinosaur actions sequences you come to expect from a Jurassic film.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- Characters were really interesting and you can figure out which characters were not going to make it and which ones had plot armor.
- D-Rex was just there and no much with this dinosaur. I would like more exploration with this issue.
- Story was weak

Overall thoughts:

It is better than the other Jurassic World sequels but that is really not saying much. This film gives the dinosaur action you expect and the character deaths you expect. It really doesn't deliver anything interesting.

Rating: 6/10

Superman

What I liked about the movie:

- The film looked good for a comic book movie.
- Had some good superman moments.
- Like the secondary characters like Justice Gang and Daily Planet characters.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The villain wasn't that good, I like Nicholas Holt and his Lex just didn't right to me. I don't like how crazy he got, which countered the main trait of being intelligent.
- I felt i was watching a superman sequel and not the first movie in the series and this made it difficult to know what was going on.

Overall thoughts:

This was an alright superman movie and comic book movie. But I felt from the first scene like I was missed the first movie and was watching the sequel. This made it difficult to get into the film. Overall good movie, but expected more and this film didn't deliver.

Rating: 7/10

Skillhouse

What I liked about the movie:

- I honestly can't think of anything.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- Combining social media star with a horror movie was a horrible idea.
- The concept was laughable and the movie couldn't decide if it wanted an over the top comedic tone or a serious critique of social media in society. Due to this the film tried both and those failed.

Overall thoughts:

Don't see this movie it is so bad and a waste of effort. You might ask why it is a 1 and not a 0. 0s are so bad they are good movies and 1s avoid at all costs. Being objective I guess if you are an influencer aficionado you might like this film.

Rating: 1/10

Abraham's Boys: A Dracula Story

What I liked about the movie:

- Performances were good in this film.
- Rural California looked beautiful.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- It was a very slow film, I figured out what was going on fairly quickly and took the movie too long to get there.
- It required a knowledge of the Dracula story as many of the secondary characters are in this film.

Overall thoughts:

Slow burn movie with good performances needed to be edited down better. But was an interesting take on the Dracula concept.

Rating: 6/10

I Know What You Did Last Summer

What I liked about the movie:

- Seeing characters from the first film.
- Kills were interesting

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The villain motivation was bad.
- I didn't like the villain and thought the logic didn't make sense with some of the characters the villain killed.
- This movie just felt like the normal nostalgic cash grab and was over disappointed.

Overall thoughts:

Last summer franchise wasn't very good to begin with. It was good seeing some of these 90s actors back on the big screen, but overall this movie was bad.

Rating: 2/10

The Fantastic Four: First Steps

What I liked about the movie:

- This was a self contained marvel movie and one in a long time where I didn't feel I needed to do the homework.
- Villain was good and liked the overall story.
- Made me want to watch the next marvel movie, where others have failed to do that for me.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The story didn't good where I thought it should given the beginning of the film.
- I didn't really like Pedro in this film.

Overall thoughts:

Decent fantastic four film and was entertained. The story didn't good where I thought it should. Overall best marvel movie in a few years and I liked I didn't need to see previous films to know what was going on.

Rating: 8/10

House on Eden

What I liked about the movie:

- Amateur film making worked with this film's story.
- The characters were good.
- Scares were good and felt real.
- It gave some folk horror vibes.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- It's a found footage film and the shaking cam can be really bad in this found and I would advise if that is an issue for you, don't watch this film.
- The film was slow at points.

Overall thoughts:

Decent found footage film and felt like it was going to be uploaded to youtube. It reminded me of a good horror film from the 1970s, Race with the Devil, that I love. It was good amateur film and glad it got a wide release.

Rating: 7/10

Bambi: The Reckoning

What I liked about the movie:

- The opening animation is the only thing to really watch on these fairy tale horror movies

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The movie was bad and you can imagine where it going.
- The story is bad and this movie gives what you would expect from a fairy tale horror film.

Overall thoughts:

It is not as good as the winnie the pooh horror films, just what you would expect.

Rating: 1/10

Ick

What I liked about the movie:

- I thought the movie had an interesting concept.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- This film was really a covid commentary. This took me out of the film.
- The film claims it was insulting both sides to the covid, but it became clear all the jokes were aimed at one side of that issue.
- Even though this film was short it felt too long.
- The director did homages to other films and it just reminded me of better movies and I felt like I should leave and just go watch those movies.

Overall thoughts:

Rating: 2/10

Eddington

What I liked about the movie:

- The performances were good.
- The film looked good.
- I was expecting more bias, but found the film to represent both sides.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The story was not really interesting.
- The characters were not really relatable.
- The film went down some questionable paths

Overall thoughts:

I really liked Ari Aster first two film, but this one and Beau is Afraid have made me question his ability. I think I will be more hesitant to watch his next film unless it is in the folk horror genre.

Rating: 4/10

The Naked Gun

What I liked about the movie:

- The jokes were great, not all landed but they did so many i found myself laughing alot
- Liam Neeson's performance was great and he delivered that dead pan style very well.
- The end credits were full of jokes making it work stay through the credits

What I didn't like about the movie:

- Story wasn't that good.

Overall thoughts:

This movie is definitely in the style of a Zucker Brothers film and I enjoyed that. With remakes it is too easy to just do a modern take on the film and I felt they didn't go that route and I applaud them for that.

Rating: 9/10

Sorry, Baby

Warning: Do look at the subject matter of this film before watching as some will find it disturbing and may not want to watch it.

What I liked about the movie:

- Performances were strong
- Interesting subject and thought they handled it well given the seriousness of the matter.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The movie kinda of jumping around time didn't make too much sense.

Overall thoughts:

Good film over a difficult topic. It takes a more serious approach to this issue.

Rating: 8/10

East of Wall

What I liked about the movie:

- Cinematography was good.
- Horse riding was real
- Story was somewhat interesting

What I didn't like about the movie:

- The pacing of the film was bad.
- The performances were not done by actors and so didn't have too much range. They felt real but wooden in some places.

Overall thoughts:

It has a human interest story that takes a bit too long to develop. The horses look great in the film, but the acting was not really good as I don't think these people were trained actors.

Rating: 6/10

Weapons

Gore Warning this film does have some gore and that may not be for everyone

What I liked about the movie:

- The performances were good.
- I liked the overall story of the movie along with the different way in which the story was told.
- Loved the ending of the film.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- Because the story was told as a point of view of several characters there was some redundancy in scenes that slowed down the movie.

Overall thoughts:

Great take on an interesting concept. The movie is redundant in a few places but overall really strong.

Rating: 10/10

Strange Harvest

What I liked about the movie:

- Did a good job with the documentary style of storytelling.
- Interesting story.

What I didn't like about the movie:

- Made the subject feel that this was a real event and the documentary was fake.
- Pacing had some issues.
- Events were too convenient which made it clear it was fake.

Overall thoughts:

If you like true crime stories with a supernatural element told in a documentary this is your film. I don't think the story needed to be told this way and since it was fake it seems like a bad idea.

Rating: 7/10