Features of Good Films

The success of a movie based on a best-selling novel is not guaranteed but the film, *Wonder*, has attracted the attention of a huge audience over the year. The story is a heart tugging piece that talks about the real issues of society today. It presents the story of a child,August, born with a facial deformity who is able to overcome societal stereotyping and live a normal, young, and happy life. The book has a realistic view of the world and it helps us understand the sad, harsh truths that are often avoided in our daily lives. The confidence of August gives us the strength to speak out the sad truths and live on despite our weaknesses. Wonder is an exceptional film because it has features that appeals to the emotions of its audience through a cohesive flow of the events and appropriate characterization.

One of the aspects that make the film a great record is the stories relevance to our own experiences. The movie can be characterized as a “feel-good,” family-friendly movie because of its ability to show the difficult life situations and emphasis on the value of empathy (Henley, 1). The film is captivating and has attracted critics and qualifications as “ it’s a very tasteful heart-tugger, a drama of disarmingly level-headed empathy that glides along with wit, assurance, and grace, and has something touching and resonant to say about the current climate of American bullying (Owen, 1).” The movie is effective story of benevolence as shown when Auggie’s friend, Miranda, joins the schools critics along with the kindness of Justin who not only helps him in winning his friend but supports him. At the end of the movie, Auggie got the Henry Ward Beecher medal which was for good works, and his life transforms from a school freak to a hero.

The style adopted used in structuring the movie is unique and very effective in delivering its message. The major impact of the movie is its ability to capture the book’s moral of kindness and inclusivity towards people who are isolated. The movie not only captures the emotions of its audience and causes them to care for the characters, but also creates a compelling visual structure that appeals to our imagination. One critic named KJ Proulx wrote “We've seen thousands of stories revolving around bullying and looking different, but we see it from multiple perspectives here(KJ)” on Rotten Tomatoes.The opening of the movie was Auggie’s monologue about his “difference”, but when the movie went through half way, it started to talk about the story from Auggie’s elder sister’s eyes. These different perspectives brought different film reflections to audience and caught audience’s attention.

The movie’s director also plays a great role in making the script an exceptional piece of art. *Wonder* is a movie by an exceptional filmmaker, Stephen Chbosky (Henley, 4). He was able to represent the layered personality of Auggie and later the life of his science-class partner and give the time for the characters to rest. He also creates a flow of events from Halloween to betrayal, friendship and later heroism. Through the story we are able to experience the triumphs, downs and tough journey of his middle school experience. He uses short chapters and paragraphs to speed up events. The dialogue between Auggie and Jullian shows brutality and that his elder sister explains his school struggles (Maria). The different accounts are intertwined into a success detailed comic story.

Despite the many aspects that have made the text a successful piece it still has a few flaws.It should be noted that even though the movie seems a well structured successful piece of art, it fails to account some important emotions and bigger conflicts. A Rotten Tomatoes top critic, James Berardinelli, wrote“ the movie ignores the full cruelty of upper elementary school life and sugarcoats the degree to which bullying can erode the day-to-day experience of a victim”(James). The movie gave audience a small conflict, but prejudices that face the disadvantaged in the society are far more fetched than the representation in the movie. In the same article, James also provided his point of view against this criticism, “Bullied children may find some solace in observing the difficulties encountered by fifth grader Auggie (Jacob Tremblay) and how he pushes through them”(James). Those bullied children in real life usually feel very lonely and lack of confidence, they need a model who has suffered similar situation but made through these difficulties himself to comfort and guide them. Nevertheless, this flaw made Wonder warmer and inspired those children who got bullied as Auggie.

Wonder’s major usefulness is not the wordiness but its ability to create an experience of emotional truth with one's audience. The movie can be considered as a good representation of liberation and the factor model to the emotional trauma in our world. The film also acts as an awareness forum for people with disabilities. It helps its viewers learn about the need for human connection and from the movie’s series of events, we are able to accept that everyone is extraordinary.

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