

Episode 13: Time, love, death and the collateral beauty

Howdy people! So, how have you been? Well, it's March already! I can't believe! This year's just flying! And, how was the week so far? Have you been having fun? Learning a lot? Today, we will talk about the movie called Collateral Beauty. So what should we expect from a movie that starts with the question: what is your why? It's a great question. I mean, there you have Will Smith and he says: what is your why? Why did you get up this morning? And I thought mhm, maybe this movie is going to be a little bit different! And it is, it was. And maybe that's why so many people criticize it so much. But so, add to that great question that opens basically the movie some great actors. You have Will Smith, Helen Mirren, Keyra Knightley... and when you mix all of that you have a movie that will make you cry, smile, but also think a lot. And like I said, a lot of critics and also sites like Rotten Tomatoes, they basically hated the movie. And you see so many bad reviews out there, and thankfully I only saw the bad reviews after watching the movie. Because otherwise maybe I would not have seen it. And I would have lost! Would be my loss. And yes, of course the movie has flaws. But I guess every movie has it. But I just really think that maybe people just didn't get the message that the film is trying to share with us. Because yes, on the surface there are many things going on with the movie but if you really focus on what really matters ... on the messages. The ones that are maybe hidden, some not so hidden throughout the movie. Then you see that it is totally worth it. But so yeah, if you are just looking for a movie to relax, it's not it. For you to really enjoy it, you will need to put some effort maybe behind it and be open to all the small things going on. So, as usual, before we continue digging into the story and everything behind, let's talk about the plot. So that you will understand, if you have not watched it yet what the movie is all about. And also then you can see and decide if this film is for you or if you agree with critics and you think I am completely insane for even liking it. One of the phrases I thought... it was funny when I was reading the critics some people said: this movie should not have been produced in the first place. We will see what you guys think about it.

So, we have Will Smith and he plays the main character. His name is Howard and he is an advertisement executive and he is also one of the partners in the company where he works. So, he's one of the owners. 2 years before the present of the movie his little girl, she died. And he never really recovered from it. He's a mess! Big, big mess! I mean, his marriage ended, the company is going down and he just seems to be suffering from depression or something like this. He goes to the office but all he does all day long is play with dominos. And I mean, he piles them and then when he thinks he's done making sculptures with dominoes he just takes it all down and the next day he starts all over again. As a part of this healing process that he is going through Howard one day decides to write letters. But he does not write letters to people. He decides to write 3 letters. One to love, one to time and one to death. Because he believes that those are the 3 things that connect us. Every single one of them. Because we all long for love;



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we all wish we had more time and we usually fear death. So that is why he decided he was going to write 3 letters, one for each of those... let's call it here things, OK?

He has 3 friends who are also his business partners and they decide they have to do something. Because the company is going down, they are afraid they are going to lose the company. And they also are afraid for him. Because they know this can not go on like this forever. So they hire a private detective and she's the one who discovers that he just wrote those 3 letters. They decide and that is one of the big points that I agree it was a bit confusing if not a bad joke, what they did. They decide to hire actors to play Love, Time and Death. To confront him. To see if that maybe will make him wake up but also, at the same time, they were planning on making videos and of course taking the people (actors) out of those videos so that people would think he's crazy. Because he was not accepting to sell the company and also there were some other decisions they needed to make and he was just refusing to deal with that. So they were afraid they were going to lose everything. They thought the only solution was to make the board of the company think he was crazy and so they could do whatever they had to do. And if this happened in real life this would be yes, probably the worst joke ever. How could you just play with someone like that right? I mean, with someone's sanity and at the same time with his pain. Because he was still grieving for that little girl he lost 2 years before. So, of course, if it was in real life something like this would be horrible and I agree that the plot should have found another way to deal and to put those 3 characters in his life. But in the movie you will see that it's not exactly clear. We are never quite sure if those 3 people ... if they are really actors or if they maybe really are those 3 things. That not only came to confront Howard but also... and of course help him heal. But also to help his partners deal with their own problems.

So it's very interesting how they manage to work around this. Because at some point you think yeah, they are just actors but then there are small things that happen throughout the movie make you think mhm, so maybe this is a little bit different. But maybe we really are seeing some sort of impersonation of death, love and time. And yeah, especially death. I mean, Hellen. She's amazing and she plays a ... great death! If that ever can be possible, for death to be great. But she played an amazing role. She's an amazing actress so I guess that was to be expected. And is also very interesting to see how each one of the partners, they partner up with the one thing they were struggling in life at that point. So, for example Whit, this is one of the partners, he was having trouble connecting with his daughter. And he's the one who was helping love prepare for the confrontation. And then we have Claire, she's worried that maybe she waited too long and it might be too late for her to have children. And she's the one preparing time. And then finally we have Simon, he's fighting a terminal cancer and no one knows about it. And he's the one who's preparing death to confront Howard.

This, for me, was probably ... not was, were actually some of the scenes that I liked the most in the movie. Because as they were preparing those... let's call them people. OK? Those actors to confront Howard you see how ... what the actors ... they manage to ask questions that actually could be used of course because of Howard but they were also focused on the partners. On the struggles they were having. And so slowly, as they have contact again and again to prepare

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and then to see how it was, how it went and later ... because there is a second confrontation with Howard because they did not think that just one was enough. You see just how much some of them connect. I mean, the actor and the partner. And the impact that those actors have on their lives. So, for example, Simon. He is struggling with cancer. He knows he is dying. But he still hasn't even told his family. Death helps him see, maybe, that he should share ... he should talk to them and let them prepare to say goodbye, for example. So it's... for me, it was beautifully done. The way you think the focus is going to be basically Howard but then you see it's bigger than that. It's way bigger than just one person. And for example when we see the second confrontation when all of those characters ... well, actors they go after him again. The first time he was just baffled, right. I mean, he was like: what's going on? Am I going insane? Or is this really happening? And the second time he had time to digest maybe so he becomes maybe more ... it's not violent but he starts responding. He starts being angry. And expressing how he really feels. About how he thinks everyone cheated him. Well, time cheated him because he thought he had more time with his little girl. She was only 6 when she died. How death cheated him because when his little girl was dying, he asked death to take him instead. And death said she could not accept the deal. She would not accept the deal. And of course love, and that's when he gets extremely angry he thinks that the worst was with love. And then you see the reply and... I don't know. It's just amazing to think how much love is at the base of so many other things. How love is even connected to death and time. And how it is in ... if not everything but most of the things we do and we feel. So, as you can see... I really think that most of the people who did not like it is just because they were expecting something straight forward and that's not what this movie is about. It really is about grief and feeling lonely and dealing with those feelings and with those 3 things, really. We all know, tomorrow is not granted but, even though we know that, most of us at least still go on with life like we were going to live forever. Well, I could go on talking for a long long time here, still.

And there is also one more point that I think is interesting but I will... I cannot say much because otherwise I will give you like some big spoilers. But as this is happening, he (Howard) ... he starts participating in a grief support group and there he meets or we meet Madeleine. And she also lost her ... a daughter and there is something that will unfold from there but like I said. I'm not going to give you spoilers. Sorry! You will have to watch the movie or you will have to read a blogpost that gives you that information. But it's somewhere between amazing and weird. How they do this encounter between Howard and Madeleine.

But yeah, this movie is full of unexpected things or things that first make you go like: ah, what? But then with time you understand what they were all about. So, enough for today... I wish you guys an amazing week ... please just yeah write and say what you thought. Did you go and watch and the hate it. Did you like it actually. What did you think? Now after listening to this maybe you wanna try! So, just let me know. OK? And I will see you next week on the next episode. Bye, bye!

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