

THE HOWL



Film Review: Ready Player One

By: Gursimran Hans

Steven Spielberg directed *Ready Player One*, based on Ernest Cline's 2011 novel is a must-see film. It tells the story of Wade Watts (Tye Sheridan), growing up in the slacks of Columbus, Ohio, now a grotty concrete jungle in the 2045.

Wade escapes to the OASIS, as do much of the world's population to play in a virtual reality game where the possibilities are endless. Wade's best friend, H, he only knows through the game.

The game's creator John Halliday (Mark Rylance) left an Easter Egg before he died, and however discovers this Egg will get control of the OASIS.

Nolan Sorrento (Ben Mendelsohn), CEO of IOI, is also seeking control. His corporation has ruined the lives of many people and has built a team of players full of people who owe his company debt, who he exploits as effective slave labourers.

The story quickly becomes a battle of good vs evil as Wade and the mysterious Artemis (Olivia Cooke) try to beat IOI to the Easter Egg. IOI, however are willing to kill, both in real life and in game, to achieve their goals. A group of young kids are put through a series of challenges, teaching them about love, friendship, respect, loyalty and reality while they take on a massive transnational corporation.

The scenes in the OASIS are mainly CGI with each character having an unbelievably detailed avatar, with the fight scenes being complex and visually spectacular. The real-life world looks like a bigger version of *District 9*, but the OASIS is a visually evocative take on futuristic life and the capabilities of Virtual Reality.

The film's soundtrack is made up of 80s classic with Van Halen, Joan Jett, New Order and Twisted Sister being some of the artists involved. This works really well with the songs all having an optimistic beat, pushing the plot forward as humanity stretches the limits of its' imagination and emotions.

The film is funny and thrilling, it works perfectly, except for the ending, which doesn't seem right. Without giving away spoilers, there's a rather fortuitous character personality change, which makes the ending less problematic plot-wise, but it's still somewhat anti-climatic and feels a bit like a cop out.

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But let that not take away from the rest of the plot, it teaches the audience the value of things that are real and true friendship above pure materialistic greed. It is also a celebration of computer games throughout history with Donkey Kong, Adventure and Godzilla all playing leading roles, making it a fine nostalgia session for older games and a coming of age film for younger ones.

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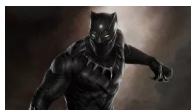


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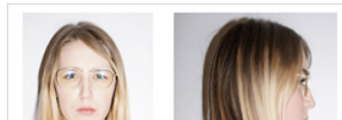
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