

Movie Review (originally posted as a post on private Instagram)

Buffalo '66 (1998)

Dir. Vincent Gallo

It's been ages since the last time I reviewed a pop culture product. I've gone through many songs and movies and musicians and actors and periods but I was too lazy to write something. Lately, my spirit to write is awakened by write-anything-but-ur-thesis.

I am going to talk about this 1998 movie by Vincent Gallo (directed, written, and also starred by him, unfortunately). And I'm disappointed and kinda complain against myself actually why should I pick his among any other movies I have been wanting to review?

The review is probably gonna sound lame but here it is anyway.

This movie follows the story of Bill, who was just released from prison because he lost a bet on the Buffalo Bills game one day. On his way to his parent's house, he kidnapped Layla to pose as his wife since this whole time he lied to his parents. They didn't know that he was imprisoned and thought that he was away working some cool job. Basically, Bill and Layla went through a long journey emotionally and ended up realizing their love for each other (Stockholm Syndrome archetype).

Billy was actually on a mission to destroy and end his life once and for all when he met Layla. We can see that Billy never got the attention and affection he deserved and thus finding someone who loved him sincerely (was it tho) made him feel worthy again. I don't know how Layla could end up loving him tho it's daddy issues ig we practically don't know anything about her.

What I want to underline here is that this is an art/independent movie. He tends to convey his aversion or whatever he wants to express through his works so the plot doesn't have to be completely reasonable although the movie is still in the scope of realism. It's basically a dark comedy of him saying how ridiculous the world around him is, especially given the fact that it's largely based on his childhood. What I like about independent movies, including this, is that the movie always feels so sincere and genuinely crafted. We know when someone puts all of the efforts into work. And that's what I like about this movie. It feels very personal: the storyline, the directing, the writing, the pictures, the acting, and the music. Maybe it's not very great but it's created with dedication. Being Gallo that he is, he treated the cast and crew like shit but he aimed for perfection.

This is a good movie but somehow weird and might be unsettling for some reason but I don't know why this movie always manages to make me come back again and again.

It also introduced Layla as an icon in pop culture. Here's the downgrade though. Layla was created so shallowly that we don't know much about her except for being a medium through

which Billy developed. She was too simple to be real but let's face it. She served as the manifestation of Billy's – or probably Gallo's – ambition and dream which he never got. However, this shallowness also has an appeal. Her fancy appearance, somewhat baffling personality, and mysteriousness attract the audience and thus makes her the most memorable piece of the movie.

Acting is I would say solid with a star-studded cast choice. Among them are Christina Ricci, Anjelica Huston, Ben Gazzara, Mickey Rourke, and Rosanna Arquette. - are as good as they are. (I like the fact that they reunited Christina Ricci and Anjelica Huston in this movie, my favorite Addams mother-daughter pair!).

Next, music, important part of a movie for me, checked. I don't like the fact that Gallo also performed for this movie cause I think there's too much of him in this movie already. Although I would still give an honorable mention to his music choice for the credit roll, Sweetness by Yes. Have to admit that the movie introduced me to Yes and I declare Sweetness as one of the most romantic songs I've ever listened to.

So does the movie worth watching? I'd say yes. It's entertaining and one of my comfort movies. However, it's indisputable that not everybody's gonna like this movie. As I said it is unsettling in some aspects. But if you're looking for a neat, well-built, easy-to-digest independent movie I think Buffalo '66 has it all.

I really want to give this a 6 out of 10 because of the filmmaker himself but I can't find anything wrong with the film so the final result is 7/10.