



## The Great Gatsby 3D

12A

Director: Baz Luhrmann  
Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Carey Mulligan  
Running time: 142 mins  
Released nationwide on May 16th

Anticipation is sky high for the new project from director Baz Luhrmann, the man who brought *Romeo + Juliet* and *Moulin Rouge* to the silver screen and who has now accepted the rather daunting challenge of adapting F. Scott Fitzgerald's heart-breaking 1920s novel *The Great Gatsby*.

Leonardo DiCaprio reunites with Luhrmann for the first time since *Romeo + Juliet* to portray the enigmatic Gatsby, a literary hybrid. Every reader of Fitzgerald's novel has struggled to decipher what parts of *Gatsby* comprise reality and what parts comprise the world of grandeur and romance that he creates in his own mind. The film outlines aspiring stockbroker Nick Garraway's (Tobey MacGuire) experiences of the party scene in New York City in the 1920s, and the lies and forbidden love which hold it together.

Thirty-nine years after the release of the novel's most popular film adaptation in 1974, one can easily question Luhrmann's ability to preserve the splendour created by Fitzgerald's *Gatsby* and his hopelessly romantic protagonist. He claims the film uses popular culture to produce an unforgettable cinematic experience, mirroring Fitzgerald's use of contemporary 1920s arts. Luhrmann has recruited the crème de la crème of popular music for

the film's soundtrack, although Luhrmann dubbing rap icon Jay-Z as a 'natural fit' for the soundtrack has led to concerns being voiced regarding contemporary artists' ability to honour the 1920s post-war culture within which *Gatsby* was based. One can only hope that the gamble with the extraordinary pays off, and doesn't detract from the mystique of a different time.

The advancement of film since previous screen adaptations of *The Great Gatsby* also calls into question the point at which cinema becomes crass

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and less artistic when weighed down by special effects that weren't present during the tender years of the novel's creation. This version of *Gatsby* is to be shown in 3D, much to the dismay

of those concerned the attention to display detail that's necessary when taking a film into a three-dimensional experience will cause an inevitable lack of focus on the acting, pace and dialogue that portrays the unbridled emotions in *Gatsby*.

Whether this new version can transport a modern audience back almost one hundred years remains to be seen, but Luhrmann's critical acclaim and style only feeds the intrigue that surrounds the mystery that is *Gatsby*.

Charlotte Ross