

Kick-ass

A Review by Andrew “Hollywood” Henry

As anyone would suspect, Hollywood Henry is a fan of comic-book, superhero movies. But, and I think most audience members would agree, the genre has been tapped for a few years – how many origin stories do I have to sit through? I get it – average person having a rough time in life gets thrust into a traumatizing situation that turns them into a superhero. It definitely has been overdone (though with the box office returns for superhero movies not slowing down, it seems everyone still loves them). That is why when heard of Kick-ass was a film that spun the genre in a new direction, I had high hopes.

Kick-ass is the name our lead character, a high school student named Dave, adopts as his superhero alter ego, when he asks the question – why can't regular people just don a costume and fight crime? Of course, without any sort of radio-active powers or gamma rays to enhance his power, Dave really is just a regular person, which is apparent after his first confrontation lands him in the hospital.

The problem is, the film starts out to be something different, but it quickly turns into an average superhero film. It really is not that innovative at all; Dave gets caught up in a bigger fight involving a crime lord, and a few other people decide to also try their hand at being masked avengers. Which brings us to the best part of the movie: Hit-Girl.

Hit-Girl is an 11-year-old swearing, crime-fighting girl, played by Chloe Moretz. Yes, Hit-Girl is violent and knows how to use a weapon or two, but she also provides the best parts of the film. I realized our lead Dave was basically following around Hit-Girl and taking his cues from her - I wondered why the film was not just titled “Hit-Girl”? If it was, I probably would recommend this movie, but as it is now – eh...

There has been criticism that the film glorifies violence, which may lead younger viewers to idolize the brutal tactics seen in the film. Well, for starters, the film is rated R, so it is not for younger viewers. And films over the years have had plenty of cowboys, gun-slingers, mobsters and cops - I think audiences are savvy enough to understand the difference between reality and entertainment.

Quick 50 Words: “Sundance” Sims at Tribeca Film Festival

One would think films at this “top shelf” festival would have been more impressive. “Meskada” is a detective drama set between two small towns (one affluent; one poorer). A lot could have worked with this film (and some did—especially the acting), but ultimately it fell short in compelling storytelling.