

Eye on Entertainment

A Good Foreign Film: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo Review

By Evan Romano - Lion's Eye Staff Writer - ebr5008@psu.edu

Foreign films suck. They are the epitome of hit or miss to the American public. The humor is often so off beat it's indistinguishable from seriousness. The drama films lack dialogue. I hate foreign films. However I carry no prejudice when I view a new one. I always go in with a renewed sense of hope. This movie delivered.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is one of the best book to movie adaptations I have seen in a long time. It is a Swedish film and was released in theaters in 2009. The cast was stellar, the cinematography was dramatic yet not distracting, and the twist was enjoyable. The only fault the movie carries is its length. Personally I could have sat through another 30 minutes of this 2 1/2 hour film. I loved this movie.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is about an investigative journalist named Mikael, who writes for a major magazine in Sweden. He was set up by a corrupt corporation that he was investigating and is sentenced to three months in jail. While this is happening, Lisbeth, a very troubled looking, yet brilliant hacker is monitoring Mikael's computer activity. Out of nowhere, Mikael is called upon by Henrik Vanger, a very wealthy older man from a very important family. He hires Mikael to investigate the disappearance of his niece, Harriet. She disappeared over 30 years ago in 1966, on Children's day in Sweden. The bridge to the island was closed, and it happened on the day of the Vanger family reunion. Henrik thinks one his family members killed Harriet. Down the rabbit hole you go.

While this is occurring, Lisbeth is assigned a new probation officer. He's also a sexual sadist and a rapist. He tries to control Lisbeth and all of her money in exchange for sexual favors. Luckily she does get him

back in a disturbing, yet satisfying way.

Now before I go any further I want to warn everyone, this movie's rape scenes are graphic on a level I have never seen before. I felt physically uncomfortable watching this on screen. It also happens twice in this movie. I realize the sensitivity of women when it comes to this topic. Rape is scary, it is demeaning on an indescribable level and it destroys women's self worth.

In Europe, sex in film is more loosely portrayed in comparison to Hollywood. It's a strange irony. In America, violence is much more tolerable than sex. In Europe, sex is tolerable while violence is much softer. Is one way right or wrong? No. It's just a cultural difference and it's something you must consider when viewing foreign films.

Sex is all over this movie. Some of it's good, some of it's bad, and some is kind of hot. If you get uncomfortable watching nude scene with your parents in the room, take this advice; do not watch this movie with your family.

The whole film is in subtitles. There is a good thirty minutes of set up in the beginning. The dialogue is done precisely though. The conversations that otherwise would be very wordy are punctual, to the point, but don't lack depth. Every line of dialogue feels important and tells you a lot about the characters and moves the story forward without needless bloat.

Noomi Rapace, the actor of Lisbeth plays such a dynamic character flawlessly. From her tone to her body language, to her shy awkwardness, she was the real McCoy. I felt like I was watching her

natural state, a European adaptation of the American "emo girl". She was born for this role.

I hate writing positive reviews. It's much more challenging to praise a movie than to bash it down with my grammatical hammer. I loved this movie though and I needed to share this. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is a foreign film that you should expect to hear more about in years to come.

With a low budget, and a global reach this film has transcended the European black hole of B movies. The characters felt authentic, the ten-

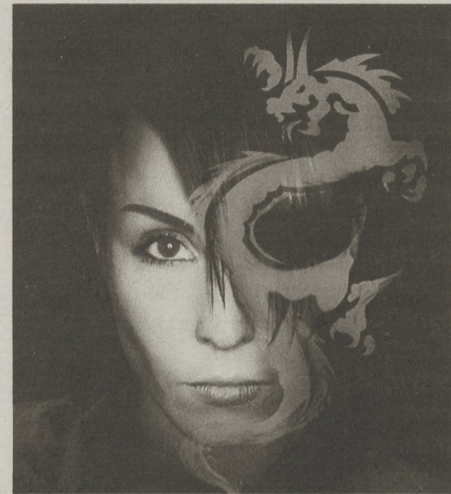


Photo Courtesy of Entertainmentwallpaper.com

sion felt real and I can't wait to see the next film in the series The Girl Who Played with Fire. There is already an American adaptation of The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo planned for 2011, starring Daniel Craig as Mikael and Rooney Mara as Lisbeth. I'm sure they'll screw it up.

Horoscopes

By Kelly Crawford--Lion's Eye Staff Writer --kmc5368@psu.edu

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Aries

With Mercury gone from your work sector and Pluto slowly coming into his own in your career sector, there is no longer the urgency that was there and you're now on a more long term objective. This gives you a chance to focus more on both your personal and professional relationships, building on from last week's New Moon and the authenticity that has developed out of facing the challenges of the last few months. With Mercury spending both his first and last full week in your relationship sector and the Sun his last full week, this is a week where relationship building needs to be a priority.

Taurus

With Mercury gone from your romantic sector, on the personal front all your focus is on your relationships where Venus, planet of love is spending her first full week in retrograde motion. Having turned retrograde on Friday she's on a month long mission to reconnect with the past, which has opened the door to second chances, an opportunity to make up for lost time or for some a reconciliation. At the same time Mars continues to forge forward, making sure you don't become so mesmerized with the past that you remain stuck.

Gemini

This is very much a settling in week, where you're able to get your bearings on a number of fronts. All that has needed to play out has, on both the professional and personal fronts and with nothing more happening until next week you have a chance to step back, take it all in and start looking at where to from here. On the personal front anything that needed to come to a head did during last week's New Moon and with the Sun and Mercury in their last full week in your romantic sector, they're working to put things on a sustainable course.

Cancer

Any work/life issues that still needed to be worked through have now had their chance and you can now enjoy the balance you've fought so hard for. With Venus spending her first full week in retrograde motion in your romantic and creative sector, there's even a chance to recapture something lost, with the door open to second chances. With Mars, planet of passion now in the lead in this very romantic, creative and playful part of your chart there'll be plenty of new opportunities as well.

Leo

Mercury's departure from your income sector has relieved a lot of financial tension, allowing you to finally maximize Jupiter's last full month in retrograde motion in your financial sector. With a lot more confidence on both the financial and job fronts, you're able to start playing a more strategic game, working smarter rather than harder. It's Venus' first full week in retrograde motion in your home and family sector that makes this the ideal week to make up for lost time, with some special opportunities to catch up with loved ones or to make your home your castle.

Virgo

Things are all go on the income front this week, with last week's New Moon having done more than simply provide a tailwind. It's given you more confidence across all the currencies in your life and not just on the financial front. It helps that the communication lines are opening, with Venus' first full week in retrograde motion in your communication sector giving you a chance to give the past a voice, especially as Jupiter is now entering his last month in retrograde motion in your relationship sector. Yet with Mars in direct motion you're able to do a lot of forward planning.

Libra

With the long hard slog behind you, this is a week where you're able to take a well deserved step back, taking the time to rest on your laurels, but not for too long for with the hard part behind you, you have just enough time to contemplate your next steps. With both the Sun and Mercury spending their last full week in your sign, you're able to put the finishing touches on your plans and intentions for your new solar year, knowing that even though you're new solar year is less than a month old, that the toughest challenges are already behind you. There are both new and second chances on the income front, at the same time that things are falling into place on the job front.

Scorpio

For with Venus now in retrograde motion in your sign and Mars, planet of passion, drive and ambition taking the lead, it's going to feel like your new solar year has already begun. You will likely be able to see your passions, energy levels and your excitement about new quests kick into over drive, with a real sense that you're back in your stride and you mean business. All this before your birthday month even begins, with a chance to get a head start on as many things as possible.

Sagittarius

For the first time in 6 months you're moving into a new week without activity in your career sector and that constant push, giving you a chance to get your bearings and gain some perspective. This gives you a chance to recharge your batteries ahead of your Mars return, which is going to kick off when the planet of passion, drive and ambition returns to your sign. With the Sun and Mercury both in their last full week in your sector of friendship, teamwork and networking, they're working to build on the new doors that last week's New Moon opened.

Capricorn

With the urgency from the Sun and Mercury's last full week in your career sector, you would think that professional forces would dominate this week. They'll try but they'll meet some resistance, with Venus and Mars very strongly placed in a very social and serendipitous part of your chart. For the first time since they joined up last month Venus and Mars are going their separate ways, with Venus looking to make up for lost time on the personal front while Mars is forging ahead, making this an ideal week for both personal and professional networking. Teamwork is the name of the game this week, especially on the professional front.

Aquarius

With Mercury gone from your financial sector you finally have that monkey off your back, giving Jupiter and Uranus a chance to get on with the rare second chances they're working for on the income front. Venus' retrograde move has opened the door to second chances on the professional front, but in the process this has allowed Mars to surge ahead, opening the door for a lot of forward momentum, giving you the best of both worlds. Yet things aren't as career focused as they're going to get.

Pisces

One by one first the financial and then any remaining personal or relationship pressure eased off, bringing a real sense of having made it. You're at a point now where what you see is what you get, with nothing else yet to surprise you and nothing more that you're going to have to deal with. Now it's a case of working through what you're already dealing with, with challenges already in the process of turning into opportunities. It's the old story of what doesn't defeat you will only make you stronger and that's especially true on the personal, relationship and financial fronts.

Thimbles & Threads

THE CRAZIER THE BETTER, HOWEVER...

By Caitlin Hazinsky--Lion's Eye Generation Editor--ceh5240@psu.edu

As we saw on the runways of New York's Fashion Week, crazy match-ups seem to be the 'it' look for the season! In this year's first official Philly Fashion Week, this same trend is continued. Philly's Fashion Week came out with a multitude of new, interesting clothing options—there was even a clothing line that looked like Lady Gaga would enjoy! In this same fashion line, created by designer Autumlin, had a mixture of dresses and skirts made from netting mixed up with feathered head dresses and feather accents (even feather collars!). Not suggesting you go out and purchase feathered items and pair them with your entire wardrobe, but a few feather accents can add a hint of edginess to an outfit.

A more wearable look came from a designer stationed in Milan. Designer Allegri presented bright corals and mixed their pallet of bright colors with darker, neutral fabrics, such as ivory, beige, black, and brown. Flowing, yet clingy fabrics silhouetted the model's bodies in an extremely flattering way. Mostly showing structured cut dresses, which makes more sense in Milan than on the East Coast; you could take a brightly colored dress and match it with a rigidly cut blazer or trench coat for the fall weather. One thing that made Allegri's fall fashion line stand-out more than the others was the development of their

runway show. It was evolutionary. They started with the coral, solid color dresses, moved into the darker/neutral outfits, added some jackets to the mix, and ended with their pants and more fall-appropriate clothing. Something to think about when shopping for daytime clothing this season, although not all that practical, lighter fabrics are popular on the runway.

Even though the designs that were featured in Philadelphia's Fashion Week may not be all that practical or even wearable, you can take some of these designers' ideas and put your own twist on it! Something I like to remember when picking out an outfit for any

occasion is layering! Layers are the best thing to use—they are easy, fun to put together, and look awesome (as long as you don't get too out of hand with the clothing/colors you're layering). Also, if you're in a pinch and it's cold outside, trench coats styled after raincoats are the perfect way to add some fall flare to your outfit on a chilly day! Plus, it can keep you warm if you take some of Allegri's advice with the fabrics.

And men, it's easier for you fellas to dress, but just in case, men's wear this season is somewhat like the ladies fashion as far as layers are concerned. More neutrals for you and don't neglect picking up a nice pair of lace-up Army style boots to top off your outfit. Other than that, ladies, use your colors and layers and gents, layer up and make it masculine!

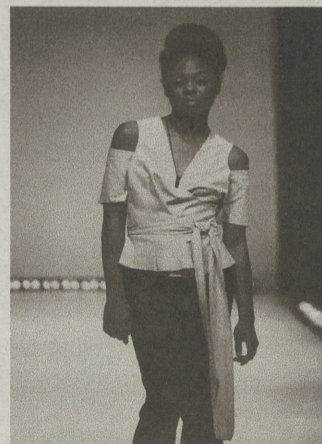


Photo Courtesy of Jeff Cohn