CLOUD ATLAS Movie Review

Style: Drama, Science Fiction, Mystery

Year: 10-26-2012

Director: Lana Wachowski, Lilly Wachowski, and Tom Tykwer

*based on a 2004 published book written by, David Stephen Mitchell

Actors: Tom Hanks, Jim Broadbent, Jim Sturgess, Halle Berry, Hugh Grant, Bae Doona, James D'Arcy, Susanne Sarandon, Ben Whishaw, David Gyasi, Zhou Xun, Keith David, Hugo Weaving

Set(s): This movie is filed on location in Germany, United Kingdom and Spain.

Each dynamic section of Cloud Atlas has it's own design to befit the time frame and nature of it's content.

Note from the author:

Cloud Atlas is a masterfully creative film work having a 5 part storyline which challenges us to connect the interconnectivity between each. This integrative fashion film work and is, via my insight, extremely difficult to accomplish. As the writer and director have to present and value each intricate detail of each story as the storylines unfold and prove the nature and outcome of the other for characters. Each character has his or her own value and sense of belonging independent of one another however intertwined their stories become in the present day or future tense.

Movie Summary:

Cloud Atlas begins with an introduction to each developing storyline. I believe the narrator relays a message 'One voice whispering spying from the dark, now up-close not the first time we met eye to eye'. For some it is a sign of one of those movies which requires to much attention and thought as for others, it is a path onto depth and plot in thought and the ability to 'watch a movie' and understand the concept of our writer and director.

The five sections of this film are tales of (1) a reporter striving to find her storyline and disclose corporate corruption and murder, (2) The composer, a reader of old books, burdens us with the explanation for the suicide of a man whose killed himself for something other than love, (3) Relate a version of truth to adapt ones life in a futuristic world to the torment it takes to fight in survival of cruelty. 'What is an Ocean but a multitude of drops,' which are befallen tears or cries to be saved in sacrifice of life as prescribed by

Solmny, world savior. (4) Learning that it cost to make money in publishing, a successful plan to gain wealth in the death of his murdered writer, Finch is blackmailed for more money than the novel earns. His attempt to hide is flustered by his brothers conniving decision to commit him, for the rest of his life, into a nursing home. (5) Zachry, character of another futuristic tale, is fighting mental demons who haunt him as he journey's to aide the prophetess in finding the forbidden land and machinery to contact home in the stars for help on earth.

As you've read each and watched the movie, you discovered the tale within the each story of the characters past life and how it is impacting their current days ventures, the tragedy's which plaque them as they fight toward a resolution. For instance, Solmny must determine the best response to their sense of captivity as the Prophetess struggles for the equipment for homeland contact as she and Zachery battle wild violet warrior, the horsemen, killing off his people. She is searching using the knowledge of Solmny.

(1) In a robots tell of Solmny 451, her rise to wisdom, understanding , and savior of her people, escapes captivity with the help of a man, a believer of her abilities. She is educated of her life and the conditions of her people and the times in an effort to use her 'wisdom' to save them from sudden death and use as food supply. The promotion of social injustice and reactive uprising to fight inequality is her destiny. She learns of love, being in love, and honesty as they run in energy and time seeking freedom. In Hae Joo Chang's death, she is taken, imparts her wisdom and is debriefed before death. We interpret that the 'truth' is hidden, invisible from us. The truth is within her death for others and it is to be discovered as we watch Tom Hanks and Halle Berry travel to the forbidden zone. It is also an altered reality as we see her 'lover' who is dead standing at her death release.

(2) The Composer, Robert Frobisher, a natural hoodwinker, is most interesting as we are dazzled in his reading an old 1849 book about a lawyer, Adam, befriending a free slave Stowaway on his journey by sea to San Francisco. As he is being poisoned by the ships captain the black man saves his life. We are privy to his relationship ending in his decision to no longer practice the slavery & trade with his in-laws family. He denounces this slavery and joins with the eastern abolitionist.

However, fascinated we are with this encapsulated tale, there is the real life issues surrounding this want to be a musician during his final days at Cambridge and his slickly sending letters to his fathers musical greats to persuade them into hiring him for a internship. He secures such with a renowned composer for who he writes, through dictation, his music while working quietly on his own masterpiece. Here at the cusp of finality he is restricted by his past crimes and failures into giving his beautiful music over to the old man and losing the public expression of his talent and identity as he has lost his one true lover, love with a gay man. He resides to murder, the classic emotional torment semblance of his internal pain.

(3) In 1973,Luisa Rey, just like her father, is a journalist in the midst of a story saddled with nuclear laboratory reactor company's abandonment of a project. The scientist, familiar with her fathers work, plans to share is intel with her knowing his life is at risk and falling in love with Ray as it too internally reignites the emotions of a past flame through another's eyes within written words of letters he saved and she reads. Our writer offers us vulgar humor in explanation of escaping the scientist first love's home through a window before being arrested for trespassing. Yet, there is again a loss as the plane he travels upon explodes mid-air and she then becomes the target as host to his information. The spying game has her surviving an attempt on her life plunging off the road into a water way in the cold season and running through the streets of the city from an assassin with her fathers friend. In the midst of calm, after the chase, she sits reading the paper and letters from which the young man suggest would come a good book.

(4) Tom Hanks plays Zachry a villager who's haunted by a dark demon, mental health condition, that distracts him from reality during the violent murder of man and child by cannibal wild horsemen. Upon return, he and the others meet the futuristic Halle Berry, Meronyn character who is searching for access to technology in the forbidden territory. He offers to aid her if she will save his dying child's life who is ill in exchange to guide her to the territory she needs. As they journey there, they too are attacked by the savages on horseback but kill one to get away. He falls trying to get he to the forbidden territory as he again is haunted by the demon just before the mad men go to the village and kill the villagers except for his daughter. He sees the village is on fire from a far and rushes back to find family deceased and drunken warrior passed out on the floor. His daughter appears having hid as he severs the neck of the savage and more natives come angry that he is dead. She and he kill them to escape in freedom and peace. In the future the last scene, She and he have grandchildren symbolic of love and his loss.

(5) Lastly, is the publisher Cavendish. During his hosting a party celebrating the release of an authors book, the writer builds his detest for a critic for his review of the book 'knuckle Sandwich'. The critic is then thrown off the balcony landing 'flat' by the angry author. This propels sales of the book which stirs outsiders to blackmail the publisher for money. He then must run and hide from these goons.

His brothers uses his dire state for payback and urges him to sign into a nursing home. Astonished at his brother plot, he too plots to escape the nursing facility, Aurora Hills, with others. They land in a town and beg of tavern dwellers to help them flee the four threatening employees charged with capturing them for return. Age, disgust, and danger and conquered with the aid of the public whom battle their tormentors as they go off into the world, free. The movie offers us a sense of humor within this experience.

Within his experience as an author we encounter that the death of a critic by his published author during his book promotional party having been thrown from the balcony, flat, and the nursing home sabotage and escape are all he himself writing a novel. Cavendish uses his real life wife in imagination as the wife of his brother with whom he is having an affair. It is actually his imagination at work the entire time. Cavendish is writing the ending as he sips with Georgette, his wife and not his brother's.

Symbolism

This is symbolic of a host of elements of life all burdened with a search for 'truth'. Each person is seeking some form of knowledge which will grant people a source of truth of the world. Cloud Atlas offers us the belief in immortality through spiritual transcendence and time. However, a confusing aspect of this evolves with time and the symbolism within each tale our writer uses to support the very notion of.

Louisa Ray sits on the elevator floor with the scientist we find his reference to her neck mark and it having been upon a woman he once knew. I found it to refer to the neck bracelet worn by Sonmy 451 and the mark it left behind.

There is also the letters and the intertwinement of the musician, the girl living at home and their being caught by her parents. We question if it is in fact the scientist or some other person who revisit the home and finds this woman still dwelling there middle aged as he piercing through a window. Each reflection is a factor of time.

Again, I find Cloud Atlas's body is filled with quotes and thoughts utilized by our writer (s), in characterization, as expressions of fear, love, and human beliefs. The sets are designed to provoke a sensitive view of the reality the character is facing. For instance, when the vehicle Luisa Rey is driving goes into the water we understand the pressure as the windows break which enables her escape. As found there in the ship sailing across waters with the Captains treasure out weighing that of the life of Adam who in turn learns the value of the stowaway slaves worth in paid fees of the slave trade. Money had it's dominance over life and respect for humanity.

Musical Endings

Cloud Atlas is a make believe classical composition & references the earth, stars, and ocean in our film, however, it is a classical orchestra sextet produced by Tom Tykwer and others for this associated Wachowski film of 2012. This is noted as we come into an understanding of the movies address to the Cloud Atlas musical composition, 'Order must be protected.'

Points In Thought

Historically, the Wachowski team has utilized, Fox Studios Sydney, to film it Matrix films. The location for Cloud Atlas began in Germany in direct linkage to the co-director Tykwer home. It, however, is indicted through social media to have also utilized varied locations in the UK and Spain for the complete production of this feature film work. It's long list of actors does not feature those native to the Australia as with the former Matrix trilogy movies.

Typically, I've learned, Australian Movies are denoted as those having Aussie actor (s) and or course an Australian writer. Australia is also said to be the or the unconfirmed first country to release a 'silent picture' in 1906, 'The Story of the Kelly Gang' filmed throughout Melbourne. Much later, the world would capture the Aussie spirit in films such as Mad Max , Crocodile Dundee, 1975's Picnic at Hanging Rock, 2006's Ten Canoes, and Moulin Rouge.

The country of Australia is said to offer privileges of value for those interested in using it's land(s) as filming locations. This is an indicated attraction for the Wachowski's who are said to have proposed traveling there once again for their next media venture.

*One voice whispering spying from the dark, now up-close not the 1st time we met eye to eye

*I fought with myself in regards to sharing the list of words as statements made by the various characters within this film and decided that it best for those interested to review the movie for ones self to travel the paths of their beliefs, choice decisions while revisiting the sense of immortality and our spiritual journey's in and throughout time.