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THE AVATAR (2009)

Cast: Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Stephen Lang, Michelle Rodriguez, Sigourney Weaver.

Director: James Cameron.

The Movie takes place in two different planets: Earth in the beginning and later in Pandora where humans are trying to colonize so as to obtain unobtainium, an expensive mineral. Jake Sully, an ex-marine, following the death of his twin brother is invited to go to Pandora and continue with his brother's work of learning the indigenous inhabitants of Pandora. Due to the identical biological make up between Jake and his deceased brother, he is able to use his avatar. However, Jake loses focus of his mission when he falls in love with the planet, the people of the tribe of Na'vi and Neytiri, the daughter of the leader of the tribe.

The film is almost three hours long and it depicts, in much detail, the beauty of the planet Pandora, from the forest that seems to have a life of its own to the different ways of the Na'vi. On the outskirts of the forest is a military base, run by a ruthless general and a greedy commander who's main concern is to obtain the rare mineral. In order to interact with the natives, a scientist and her team establishes contact with the Na'vi, learns their language and teaches them English. Discovering this magical planet becomes quite the adventure for Jake Sully who later realizes how much he belongs among the Na'vi. He is torn between betraying his own human species and destroying the only place he ever felt like he belongs, his new home.

James Cameron seeks to bring out what I see as fairy tale of the twenty first century. The advanced technology, in both planets shows the difference between the humans way of life and the Na'vi's way of life. The former species is destructive and has a firm belief that they are the superior race and can therefore take whatever they wish. If not granted, they result to force, brutality. The latter is a peace loving species which has biological relations with the nature that surrounds it and chooses to live in harmony. Quite the comparison!



Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana are the Romeo and Julliet of the set and their story of finding each other and falling in love, like in all movies is an expected one. Here, I believe that the movie ceases to be an interesting adventure and becomes quite the cliché. How two people, one of which could not stand to look at the other and thought of him as a mere child, fall in love to the extent of causing the other to betray his own people is beyond reality. Certainly if asked to do so today and off camera, I do not think anybody would make such a decision. Another flaw that I find is the miraculous appearance of all the animals during the fight just as the Na'vi were losing to the humans. The explanation given is that the deity of the people of Pandora had heard their cry for help. Why couldn't the animals have appeared at the beginning of the fight and only had to make a dramatic entrance towards the end as background music was played?

In conclusion, the movie, despite being quite the cliché in some parts, is quite thrilling. The characters strongly bring out the appropriate emotions such that it becomes quite a moving tale, the setting is very original and the action keeps one on suspense. The message is quite clear: peace and harmony are crucial when two different factions co-exist. Each needs the other to survive as well as evolve. It is definitely worth three hours of viewing.

