

A Review of 'Scream 5' by Louis Mohan

As the newest instalment in my favourite franchise, this was definitely a movie I was not expecting! I thought it would have had a more gritty and darker approach. It was still ruthless and gory, but I felt the artistic choice of things made it less so. For example, the colouring wasn't as dark as I was expecting. Also, in terms of the camera-work, I thought it was too up-close and intrusive, especially with the 'ghost face' mask. You can really see the difference in the mask from the previous films as it has a much brighter white to it and the head cloak around the mask is much wider and more open than the rest. I know these are small things, but they did frustrate me.

I was expecting this movie to have a similar structure to the previous films in the franchise. Typically, the four movies have had similar beginnings; there is usually a death on screen followed by a title sequence. However, 'Scream 5' had a different type of opening, which I actually liked. In this opening, the character survives and 'ghost face' starts his conversation calmly, like the original 'Scream.' However, one thing I didn't like about the rest of the pacing was that in the middle it had a confusing structure, while the end was identical to the other films. I found this really repetitive. They even used the same house as in the first film.

Additionally, some of the setups to the attacks felt like they were unfinished, with the exception of the Wes and Judy scene, and the opening. In the Wes and Judy scene, what made it so good was the way the directors Matt Bettinelly-Olpin and Tyler Gillett built up the tension, leaving us not knowing who would die or if it was all just another attack with no impact. Talking about impact, I was devastated when they killed one of my favourite characters and I still am now. To see a character grow and develop over four whole movies, that I've watched over and over again, and for that character to leave his legacy like that was just so heart-breaking to watch. However, seeing one of the characters get revenge later on is a great love letter to Wes Craven after his passing in 2015.

While I really enjoyed the thrill of the ending, for the most part, the movie felt very cheap. It was a really big reason why the atmosphere was lost and why the scenes felt very disjointed. However, the gore was another thing. It was like a character of its own and really impressive. Ultimately, I found the two ghost face reveals very disappointing and repetitive. For what their vision was, I thought the creators would have brought Stu back with the connection to the first film, but the only thing close to that was the cringy Billy Loomis hallucinations.

Finally, in terms of characters, my favourite characters in this movie, (apart from the legacy ones), were Mindy and Chad Meeks. I also felt, with the characters being related to characters from the first film, that they would have done something more, but sadly they don't, with the exception of Sam and Tara. I loved the glimpses and mentions of past characters, (especially when Sidney mentioned Mark, referring to Mark Kincaid from Scream 3) and all the rest of the Easter eggs from previous movies in the franchise.

Ultimately, I feel happy and excited to see if they follow this with a sixth which they'll probably do seeing the box office numbers! Hopefully, they can explore it more and develop these characters even further. After looking back on this review, and having re-watched the film a second time, I think overall it has more positives than negatives, giving it 8 out of 10!