Louis Mohan's Review of 'Candyman'

It is kind of shocking how, as a movie, 'Candyman' went from decent to average, then from bad to horrible all in under an hour and 30 minutes! Because to me, this movie starts with some great cinematography, (which cannot be said later in the movie…), and a great score but this potential is never realised. Also, the acting half of the time is mediocre and the other half it's terrible.

In terms of the tone of the movie, which I really liked, it is a mix of mystery and horror. The only problem, (and this goes for the whole movie), is that it gives you too much information and does more telling than actual showing. This completely hurts the final result of the film as you get so much information and too many glimpses of candy man. When you finally see him in all his glory, you don't feel any shock value or suspense as you already know everything about him. A great example of a movie that manages to pull this off is 'Jaws,' where Spielberg didn't include any up-close or physical shots of the shark until the final act. It's a pity that Bernard Rose, director of 'Candyman' didn't do the same thing.

At the start you're shown all the incidents the candy man has been doing and how solving this case is the main problem facing the protagonist, Helen Lyle. However, we never get a chance to witness Lyle before the problems occur which means there is no space for her character development. If they had developed her character more at the start, we could have seen her reactions towards the incidents and learned more about her from how she deals with them at the time.

This movie also confused me in terms of characterisation. Take for example, for the most part our main protagonist is fine but then turns out to be so badly written and poorly portrayed that you actually start to think she is a completely different character, in the wrong way! I also hate the character of Jake; he is the six year old boy who is tasked with giving the exposition for the movie. While I know he is only a child, he really is unlikeable!

The last two things about this movie I'll say is that the movie actually doesn't know who its villain is. Near the end, you get an Edward Scissorhands kind of feel to Candyman as he's

misunderstood, but it's so out of place and not explored that it just makes you confused. Also, the final thing I'll say is this; why would you make your main protagonist the villain? It is so laughably terrible! At least if they had hinted at it throughout the movie, it would make sense, but no! Sadly they don't. Overall, I would have to give this film a 2/10. While I don't regret watching it, I wouldn't watch it again!