

what are you looking for?

Search

PLEASE SELECT A GENRE
FROM THE LIST 



THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

Movie Details

Post Author: Matt Ho July 13, 2013 0

OUR RATING

DIRECTOR STEPHEN CHBOSKY

WRITER STEPHEN CHBOSKY

3/5 1 vote

US BOX OFFICE \$17.7M

RUN TIME 1 HR. 42 MIN. RATED PG-13

YOUR RATING

GENRE DRAMA

WATCH THE TRAILER THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER TRAILER

STARS [Dylan McDermott](#) [Emma Watson](#) [Ezra Miller](#) [Joan Cusack](#) [Kate Walsh](#) [Logan Lerman](#) [Mae Whitman](#)
[Melanie Lynskey](#) [Nina Dobrev](#) [Paul Rudd](#)

SYNOPSIS

A lonely freshman befriends two seniors who take him under their wing, helping him navigate through the difficulties of high school life.

REVIEW

It is not uncommon for an author to write his or her own screenplay of their work, but to pull double duty and direct it his or herself is rare. Well, that happens to be the case with Stephen Chbosky. His 1999 novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* falls under the minority of adaptations where the writer becomes an auteur, handling both script and camera.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is a coming-of-age story that's a bit of a bummer. Right off the bat,

Trending Posts

REVIEWS

TRAILERS



BEFORE SUNSET

unset 3.8/5 32 votes Synopsis Before Sunset takes place nine years after Before Sunrise whe [\[..\]](#)



TAKE THIS WALTZ

s Waltz 3.8/5 21 votes SYNOPSIS Margot (Michelle Williams) is married to Lou (Seth Rogen). The [\[..\]](#)



SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW: PART ONE

ovie Preview: Part One 3.2/5 25 votes It's no secret that Hollywood is running out of id [\[..\]](#)



HALF NELSON

son 3.1/5 353 votes SYNOPSIS Half Nelson is the featured version of Ryan Fleck's 19-minu [\[..\]](#)

U.S Box Office

Weekend Box Office for 7/12/2013

Despicable Me 2	\$43,892,895
Grown Ups 2	\$41,508,572
Pacific Rim	\$37,285,325
The Heat	\$14,002,080
The Lone Ranger	\$11,506,100

Source: *The Numbers* - Movie Box Office

Advertising

it's acknowledged that the main character Charlie (Logan Lerman) is a lonely intellectual whose only companion is a diary he addresses as "Dear Friend." He's doesn't enjoy his first couple days of school as a freshman; his classmates are terrible, and he sits alone at lunch. The only person he really wants to talk to is his deceased Aunt Helen who becomes a recurring presence presented in flashbacks.

While Charlie seems like the archetypical killjoy of a person, Chbosky does bring several likable qualities to him so that he's not a one-noted character who constantly wallows in misery. He's smart, kind, and he makes an effort to meet friends, awkwardly waving hello to those making brief eye contact in the cafeteria, and showing up to a football game in hopes of striking conversation. That all pays off once he befriends the seniors Patrick (Ezra Miller) and his stepsister Sam (Emma Watson).

From this point, Charlie is introduced to a world of like-minded individuals who are equally compatible in intelligence, but carry higher social skills. So, the "cool" kids are, since most of you are thinking it, hipsters. In that sense, some of the characters may be perceived as an annoyingly pretentious bunch that might be a turn off to some viewers. But even if their opinionated selves are intolerable, you learn to appreciate the fact that they sincerely enjoy Charlie's company just as much as he enjoys theirs.

As his relationship develops with new friends, the film begins to dive into the trials and tribulations of adolescence many will relate to, such as the awkwardness of asking someone out to the dance, having a first kiss, and of course, experimentation with drugs. While the latter is normally fully exposed within the teen genre for the sake of heightened melodrama, Chbosky strays from a tired cliché that usually feels forced. The film does not hold back on its portrayal of the use of marijuana and ecstasy, since Charlie does do all those things to cope with Sam being with another guy as well as his struggles of brief isolation from the group.

Welcome to the island of misfit toys. -Sam

However, the focus is placed on a more important central conflict involving his aunt that intensifies his visions of her, and lead to his increased mental instability. His anxiety eventually brings themes of abuse to light that gives *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* a dark tone as opposed to the hardcore drug abuse. Chbosky does counter the melancholy though with lighthearted moments that include Charlie performing *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, helping Sam study for the S.A.T.'s, and happily receiving a present from a Secret Santa, to name a few.



What really holds the film together and makes it succeed is the cast. Chbosky has picked all the right actors for his characters, and it shows in the performance. Lerman is outstanding as the lead and he plays all of Charlie's emotions to perfection. Whether he's happy, sad, anxious, high, or unhinged, he easily holds your attention and makes you care for his character.

Watson is a marvelous highlight of the film as Sam, the reformed bad girl who's kind-hearted, free-spirited, and vulnerable all at the same time. She makes a complete transformation from the *Harry Potter* character she's become famous for and shows a very different side of herself. Her American accent is convincing, though it'd probably be trippy listening to her speak for those who are used to her British accent when she's Hermione. Watson's performance in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is proof she'll have no problem breaking out of the famed wizard franchise

Miller as Patrick demonstrates just as much range as his co-stars and has excellent chemistry with Watson that's wonderful to watch. Paul Rudd only makes a few small appearances as Charlie's English teacher Mr. Anderson, but he has a great connection with Lerman in their scenes together. It's also nice to see him in something more dramatic for once.

VERDICT

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is a decent mix of teenage drama and a coming-of-age-story that's surprisingly dark given the themes. It would've been nice if the suicide of Charlie's best friend was delved into more though, since it feels like an important subject to explore in relation to the character's fragility. Unfortunately, it's briefly mentioned then quickly forgotten about.

Other than that, the ensemble is great in their roles, and the story is a relatable one that will likely have you drawing comparisons to your own high school experience. Chbosky also writes non-whiny characters you genuinely care for with problems that go deeper than mum and dad not letting them go to the mall. I never read the book prior to watching the film, but it seems like Chbosky has done a solid job bringing it to the big screen. Who knows, it may convince you to pick up a copy.

Related Posts





High Fidelity



Olympus Has Fallen



The Bling Ring



This Is 40



This Is the End

COMMENTS

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Name *

Email *

Website

Comment

You may use these [HTML](#) tags and attributes: <abbr title=""> <acronym title=""> <blockquote cite=""> <cite> <code> <del datetime=""> <i> <q cite=""> <strike>

Post Comment

