

# Arts & Entertainment

## Movie Reviews

### A Clockwork Orange

By Queeg

Based on an adaptation of Anthony Burgess's novel, this cult classic was released in 1971, and is as controversial today as it was then. It was originally banned in the UK, and met with skepticism upon reaching Canada and the US. The primary reason for the unrest was due to excessive violence, scenes of rape, and other questionable material.

The cast was rather small, in fact many actors had multiple roles throughout. The starring role of the film, a young psychopath, is played by Malcolm McDowell. McDowell is best known for his recent starring role in Star Trek: Generations; with the exception of 1987 he has had roles in assorted movies and TV shows every year since 1975. This old boy was even in Coronation Street back in the '60's, what a guy! The other characters are, honestly, second-rate and not of any importance outside the story line.

The movie is narrated by McDowell, and is told through the eyes of his character, Alex DeLarge. The dialogue used by the narrator and the character Alex is, for lack of a better colloquial word, "cool". Perhaps colloquial terms are appropriate though, as the character Alex talks about his car, a '95 Durango. Even with the pleasant dialogue this is not a movie for the squeamish; even I found myself squirming in my seat as the brainwashing/torture got underway. If you think you can stomach it, then try to watch without closing your eyes! You'll understand as you watch.

Aside from the sexual innuendo, rape, and "ultra-violence", as Alex calls it, the movie is thoroughly enjoyable with all sorts of new words and phrases to discover. On a scale of five stars, this critic would rank it at three and a half stars. If anything it was diverting and made for great conversation afterward.

### \*Foreign Film Review\*

By David MacDonald

Since this is the first entry in this column, let me start off by giving one piece of important advice: do not watch any foreign film dubbed into English. At least if you don't want a chuckle or two, which was what I succumbed to when I watched the English version of *Like Water for Chocolate*.

Dubbing is always a problem. We hear voices from the actors, who probably cannot get any work in the business except as translators, who give embarrassingly bad performances, mostly because they try (and fail) to time themselves with the mouths of the real actors speaking in Spanish. For example, the servant girl of the Mexican family which is the centre of the film sounds (in English) in complete hysterics while at the same time wanting desperately to finish her sentences so she (the person doing the dubbing, that is) can have her lunch break.

It doesn't help that the story is completely fanciful and unbelievable. The story involves a woman who because she is the youngest is forced to care for her aging mother instead of marrying the man she loves (hey, the setting is more than a hundred years ago, so we can get away with this.) Somehow, her emotions manifest themselves in her cooking. For example, during a wedding taking place a while later, her tears are shed into the food, making the dinner guests become very heartsick (and physically sick, too!). Other such events are created involving her and food throughout the story, and of course, our heroine gets what she has wanted by the end of the story.

I did see this film in the original subtitled version, and that was a tolerable experience. But the dubbed version proves that plot alone does not make a great film. Sometimes you've got to know how to recite dialogue. But then you wouldn't get any unexpected laughs that way. Rating: \*\*1/2 (of four)



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