Subject: About Schmidt
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 27 Nov 2004 15:39:15 GMT
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Anyone see or have an opinion about this Jack Nicholson movie? I saw it; wrote it off but it is staying with me and upon watching it again I find it deeper than I originally thought. I cannot figure out if I am making more of it or if it is truely a good work. It appears to operate as a morality play; but maybe I am wrong. Strangely haunting.

Subject: Recent Nicholson films
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 28 Nov 2004 19:04:04 GMT
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I keep meaning to watch "About Schmidt" too. I haven't because I understand it's pretty much an introspective film and kind of slow going. Seems like my tastes are kind of seasonal, and I'm not in the mood for it right now. But one of these times, I'll check it out for sure.I'll tell you a relatively recent Nicholson film I liked. "As Good As It Gets" is a movie where Nicholson plays a rather cynical curmudgeon with a bit of heart that he desperately tries to keep hidden under wraps. But it shows anyway, just through the cracks, just enough that you can tell. It's a part that I think was made for Nicholson.Another recent film that I thought was worth seeing was "Something's Gotta Give." Another made-for-Nicholson film, in this one, he's an aging Playboy that's always gone for younger women. When he meets the mother of his latest girlfriend (Diane Keaton), everything changes.

Subject: Re: Recent Nicholson films
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 28 Nov 2004 19:39:47 GMT
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Yes as good as it gets was vintage Nicholson. Somethings Got To Give I liked except for the obvious overacting in some of Dianne's scenes, where she kept crying endlessly. I thought Jack took a film designed to pay homage to all those Mike Nichols; Howard Hawks type screwball love stories and offered his own unique perspective. The repartee' between the two stars captured the fun and wit of those older comedies and that wit is what I feel is missing in many of todays films. Regardless of how sophisticated our teenagers become, they are not adults and do not think like adults. It is refreshing to hear adult dialogue in a current film.

Subject: Re: Recent Nicholson films

Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 28 Nov 2004 19:51:12 GMT
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Boy did you nail that. Exactly.

Subject: Re: Recent Nicholson films
Posted by lon on Sun, 28 Nov 2004 21:17:39 GMT
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Don't know the About Schmidt film, but for dialog that showsmaturity, I'd point to any one od the films or plays by David Mamet: Glen Gary Glennross being the most well-known example. I have not cared much about seeing any Nicholson films per sesince the first Batman. Or any Robt DeNiro films at all. I made an _extreme_ exception for Wag The Dog... see Mamet above.

Subject: Re: Recent Nicholson films
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 28 Nov 2004 22:31:55 GMT
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I'll agree on Glengarry Glenross; I am a big Mamet fan. But that movie was elevated by the performances of the masters; Jack Lemmon, Al Pacino, Alan Arkin. I mean they could make Spongebob sound good. House Of Games is my fave Mamet and State and Main runs second.I don't understand the Deniro thing; you don't think he can act? Lots of good actors are playing parodies of themselves lately; there just isn't any scripts out there directed at actors. I was told due to the need for films to be easily translated for the international market there will be fewer films with decent dialogue and plot twists and devices.

Subject: Re: Recent Nicholson films
Posted by lon on Mon, 29 Nov 2004 04:22:15 GMT
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Those are goods ones, but don't forget "Oleanna"... a play madeinto a film and all done by Mamet. Oleanna is the closest thing done to a stage play as a dialog that I've seen in a long time. Also not to forget "A Life In The Theatre" w/JackLemmon and Matthew Broderick. I managed to see that as a stageplay and film both. Go you Huskies. But I don't think American films have to be dumbed downfor European audiences, though I know that's not what you are saying. Look at "Amelie" for example. And I just viewed"Monsoon Wedding" last night. It's a shame that rentalplaces feat the loss of vaulable shelf space for additionalcopies of Scooby Doo to stock

more foreign films of goodquality. Which remionds me: anybody see "Hero" with Jett Li?

Subject: Re: Yes, but.....
Posted by BillEpstein on Tue, 30 Nov 2004 23:24:54 GMT
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....somethings gotta give is just too self-indulgent. Nicholson caricature of Nicholson caricaturing Nicholson. And as I wrote once before, he and Keaton exhibited so many unconscious mannerisms during their clever dialogues(not directed, we've seen all these moves since Annie Hall and Amityville) thet they looked like a Third Base Coach and a rookie baserunner who can't get together on the signs!And I loved As Good As it Gets. THAT was a mature Nicholson ACTING and a well written screenplay with a great back story.About Schmidt, without the 'whizzing scene' is really quite good. "Dear Ndugo"! Kind of a third person look at fatgher-daughter relationships in particular and in-laws in general. Kathy Bates is, as usual, terriffic.And let's not forget Howard Hesseman. What a great character actor. When will they ever release Doctor Detroit on DVD so we can watch "Smooth" Walker and Karen Blittstein (Fran Drescher) in full digital?

Subject: Re: Yes, but.....
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 01 Dec 2004 12:58:38 GMT
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Yes well Somethings Got to Give was sophomoric and contrived. As Good As it Gets was a perfectly cast film that became greater than the sum of it's parts. But Jack playing a neurotic curmudgeonly crank; not that much of a stretch. Schmidt I believe; will be recognised as one of his best in the future. "Dear Ndgu", funny how this guy who just lost his wife, retired and his daughter is marrying a slub he cannot stand; finds a way to communicate his thoughts to himself by writing letters to some person he has never met and knows nothing about. The kid lives in Africa; a place so far and so different from Kansas he might as well be on the moon. He has an RV and takes a trip through his past; The Quest. The scene on top of the RV with those little totem figures and the shooting star? Lots and lots of stuff that lingers in that film.Metaphor for alienation and disaffection of modern life maybe? Done masterfully.