

Movie Review: 'Lions for Lambs'

Best Screenplay here we come



Tom Cruise gets serious (20th Century Fox)

James Carroll
8 Nov 2007

A highly-charged political drama, *Lions for Lambs* is the best of the politically-flavoured bunch (*The Kingdom* / *Rendition*) recently released by Hollywood.

A talky, digressive three-stranded story about the "quintessential yes-or-no question of our time", *Lambs* stars Meryl Streep as Janine Roth, a journalist visiting Republican Senator Jasper Irving (Tom Cruise) for an exclusive interview. Granted an hour of his time to discuss the US's new counter-terrorism policy, Roth engages Irving in a lively debate on the rights and

wrongs of the war on terror.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the States, Dr Stephen Malley (Robert Redford) tries to coerce his brightest student (played brilliantly by Andrew Garfield, hitherto known only for two episodes of *Doctor Who*) out of flunking out of his class. Doing this by explaining to him the story of Arian (Derek Luke - *Catch a Fire*) and Ernest (Michael Peña - *World Trade Centre*), his previous best and brightest who chose to enlist in the army after graduating, we are treated to flashbacks of their college years as well as real-time events of their current op. Which just happens to be the new initiative set in play by

one Senator Irving.

Directed by Robert Redford, *Lambs* is stylistically uncinematic for large parts, as people just sit around talking. It nevertheless remains entirely engrossing throughout. A verbal battle of wits and ideologies in the Senator's and Professor's offices, we are treated to polarised views on important issues that are going on right at this moment. Drawing parallels between the decision-making during Vietnam and now, the blame for the current crisis is interestingly attributed to several different levels of society, not least to the press as to the politicians.

However, what you really want to get back to is the layered

conversation between Cruise's Senator Irving and Streep's journo Roth. Both acting at the top of their game, the screen fairly sizzles during their scenes. The meatiest role Cruise has committed to since *Magnolia* , the spin-doctoring Senator is the perfect funnel for his charismatic, clean cut, all-American, toothy grin; all veneer hiding an unsaid subtext. Streep meanwhile has the difficult job of personally carrying the (liberal?) ideology that the movie adheres to whilst having to state the most barbed indictments of American institutions. But of course, ever the pro, she achieves this with aplomb, dignity and grace.

Ultimately though, the movie's decisive message (which also stands as a rallying call to America's youth) is that the apathy of modern man is the disease that rots our society. Only through our own actions can we make a difference. Now, that's a moral that resonates long after the credits have rolled.—The Epoch Times / UK

Rating: ★★☆☆

Genre :
Drama

Main Cast :
JRobert Redford, Meryl Streep, Tom Cruise

Director:
Robert Redford

Release Date :
8 November 2007

Running Time :
92 minutes

Whitney Houston To Perform At Live & Loud KL

2007

Whitney Houston will perform at Live & Loud KL 07. The superstar will perform live for over one hour concert during the "Turn on the Pop" segment at Bukit Kiara Equestrian Park on 1 December 2007.

Houston has sold over 170 million records worldwide and is considered as one of the 100 most fascinating black women of the 20th century, according to *Ebony* magazine.

Houston is the only female artist to have two albums in the top 35 best selling albums in the US. In addition, she is also the only artist to have a record seven consecutive Billboard Hot 100 #1 hit singles.

To add a truly amazing sensory impact to her full-blown concert on 1 December 2007, Houston will be performing on a state-of-the-art stage complete with extensive high-tech audio and lighting equipment.

Other performers at the festival include Elliott Yamin, Shaggy, Project Pop and James Taylor Quartet. Also making an appearance are Malaysian stars like Anuar Zain, Noryn Aziz, Jaclyn Victor, Dina, Joe Flizzow, Azan (Ruffedge), Lah (VE), Nikki, Mode, Hannah Tan and One Buck Short.

Live & Loud KL 07 is a 10-day jam-packed music extravaganza featuring well-known artistes - international, regional and Malaysian. It begins 23 November to 2 December 2007 with different genre, different theme, different repertoire, different venue and most definitely different superstars.

Music enthusiasts can choose to go for the Chinese All Stars,

Turn on the Pop and the World Music, Heritage & Culture shows; or enjoy the Best of 80s, Acoustic, R&B and Jazz nights.

This event is organised by Live & Loud Sdn Bhd and is endorsed by the Ministry of

Tourism, Malaysia in conjunction with Visit Malaysia Year. Individual tickets for all the shows, including season passes, start from as low as RM80. Tickets can be purchased online through the official website www.lnlkl.com.



Michael Buckner/Getty Images
Whitney Houston

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Whitney Houston

Elliott Yamin

Shaggy

Jaclyn Victor

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Bukit Kiara Equestrian Park
3pm - late
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PERFORMING ARTISTES

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