

5 MOVIE REVIEW

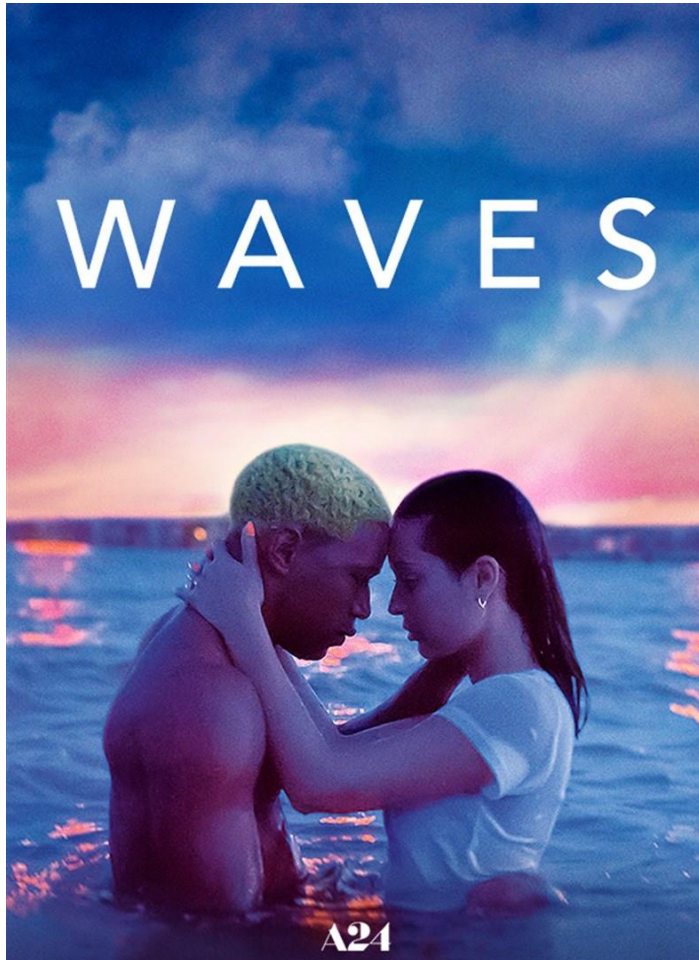
Gully



Rating: ★★★★★ (4 stars)

"Gully" (2019), directed by Nabil Elderkin, earns its 4-star rating with a portrayal of urban life in Los Angeles. The film delves into the harsh realities faced by three troubled teenagers, integrating a narrative of friendship, survival, and hope against adversity. The film presents many easter eggs towards GTA5 to show the impact violent games have on teens using exaggeration. With striking cinematography and a youthful soundtrack, Elderkin captures the raw essence of the streets in LA. The cast, led by Kelvin Harrison Jr, delivers very real and raw performances, creating an experience that doesn't shy away from the dark side of urban existence. "Gully" is an authentic and thought-provoking exploration of life's complexities, leaving a lasting impact on its audience.

Waves



Rating: ★★★★★½ (4.5 stars)

"Waves" by Trey Edwards Shults' "Waves" is an emotional powerhouse that takes you on a intriguing journey through the highs and lows of a suburban African American family. Divided into two intense halves, the film follows the challenges faced by a high school wrestler in the first part, brilliantly portrayed by Kelvin Harrison Jr. However, the real magic happens in the second half, as "Waves" takes an unexpected turn, unveiling a powerful plot twist that shifts the narrative's focus to Tyler's sister, played by Taylor Russell. This twist adds layers of complexity, exploring themes of forgiveness and resilience in a way that leaves a lasting impact. With its dynamic cinematography and intense performances, "Waves" is not just a movie; it's a rollercoaster ride that surprises and resonates with viewers.

Moonlight



Rating: ★★★★★ (4 stars)

"Moonlight," directed by Barry Jenkins and rated 4 stars, is a cinematic triumph that explores the complexities of identity and self-discovery. Through its unique three-act structure, the film has pivotal moments in Chiron's life, offering a visually stunning and emotional journey. The non-linear narrative, while challenging for some, adds an artistic layer to the storytelling, complemented by outstanding performances from the cast, including Mahershala Ali's Oscar-winning portrayal of Juan. The film's universal themes of love and masculinity can be touching for viewers especially men of color.

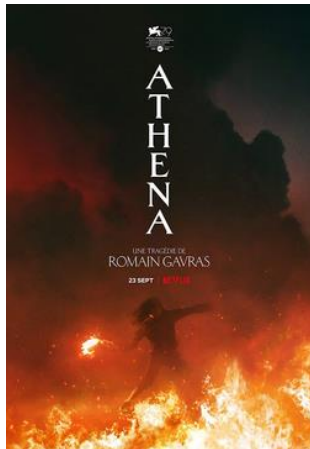
Call Me by Your Name



Rating: ★★★★★ (4 stars)

"Call Me by Your Name" is a beautifully shot and emotionally resonant film directed by Luca Guadagnino. Set in the landscapes of Northern Italy in the early 1980s, the movie tells the story of a summer romance between Elio (Timothée Chalamet) and Oliver (Armie Hammer). The film's slow pace may not appeal to everyone, but its rich visuals, exceptional performances, and exploration of first love make it a captivating experience. With a 4-star rating, "Call Me by Your Name" is a must-watch for those who appreciate nuanced storytelling and aesthetic cinematography.

Athena



Rating: ★★★★★ (4 stars)

"Athena," directed by Romain Gavras, earns a solid 4 stars in my review. Gavras's visually compelling film merges ancient mythology with a modern twist. The captivating cinematography, vibrant colors, and innovative camera work create an epic and intense experience. The narrative explores universal themes of power and identity, with drastic character development. The impact of music in the film enhances both action and emotion. "Athena" stands out in its genre, offering a fresh perspective on mythology with contemporary relevance. A must-see for fans of visually striking storytelling.

(Athena is an ancient Greek goddess of oil. She is known for her strategic skill in warfare.)