

This Week's Movies: The Jacket and The Pacifier

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[The Pacifier](#) [4] starring Vin Diesel was your basic Disney feel good movie. Formulaic, by-the-numbers plot and unimaginative cookie cutter script are dressed up by an admirable performance from my favorite action hero and yours, Vin Diesel. I was hoping he'd get a chance to show his acting ability, but we only saw glimpses as again the writers didn't get much passed his physique and action hero stereotype. It's your basic fish-outta-watern overcome-adversity and grow-from-it happy-ending movie.

Diesel plays a rough and ready Navy Seal assigned to protect the children and find an important computer program of the assassinated scientist. To do this he must pose as a "babysitter". Along the way, he learns to appreciate the family unit, changes the bratty behavior of the children to loving and respectful, and ends up saving the day.

It was an enjoyable flick, but don't expect to see any Oscar nominations for it. It was worth the price of admission to watch Vin Diesel for an hour and half. Also starring is Faith Ford and Carol Kane.

[The Jacket](#) [5] was a strange movie that puzzled the audience throughout and didn't give any answers in the end. Jack is a soldier wounded in the Gulf War, and finds himself convicted of a murder he didn't commit. Thrown into a psychiatric hospital for the criminally insane, he undergoes some isolation/sensory deprivation treatment. During these treatments he is able to piece together parts of his missing past to remember how the murder occurred. But thing began to get freaky from there. He soon begins traveling forward in time and getting little pieces of information he uses to enrich the life of a couple children. Unfortunately he also learns how and when he was to die. And so he did.

It had an intriguing plot with engaging dialogue. The actors did a marvelous job of portraying their characters. They

made an unbelievable scenario plausible. Relative newcomers Adrien Brody and Keira Knightley did a wonderful job and I bet we'll be seeing them again. Old veterans Kris Kristofferson, Jennifer Jason Leigh, and Kelly Lynch were superb in their supporting roles. We are never given a reasonable theory as to how a man supposedly killed in action seems to come back to life and most perplexing how he is able to time travel secured in a straight jacket inside a morgue drawer. It's reminiscent of Jacob's Ladder in its unanswered mystery, the kind of movie one might want to see a few times and even spend time contemplating. This is definitely an unrated winner. I enjoyed this strange psychological mystery immensely.

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