



not the directors cut

crew & info.

logline

Katniss Everdeen voluntarily takes her younger sister's place in the Hunger Games: a televised competition in which two teenagers from each of the twelve Districts of Panem are chosen at random to fight to the death.

release

Aug. 18, 2012

director

Gary Ross

cinematographer

Tom Stern

editor

*Christopher S. Capp, Stephen
Mirrione, Juliette Welfling*

screenwriter

*Gary Ross, Billy Ray, Suzanne
Collins (novel, screenplay)*

distributor

Lionsgate Films

genre

Action, adventure, sci-fi

runtime

2h 22m

cast

Katniss Everdeen
Jennifer Lawrence

Peeta Mellark
Josh Hutcherson

Haymitch Abernathy
Woody Harrelson

Effie Trinket
Elizabeth Banks

Rue
Amandla Stenberg

Ceasar Flickerman
Stanley Tucci

Cinna
Lenny Kravitz

Seneca Crane
Wes Bentley

President Snow
Donald Sutherland

Primrose Everdeen
Willow Shields

thoughts

The Hunger Games is my favorite film of all time and it's because of the care that went into not only the novel, but the adaptive screenplay, set design, performances, and editing. The entire cast and crew knocked it out of the park and I will forever rewatch this and find something new to love.

The camera movements perfectly match the situations: handheld, shakes in District 12, very polished and stable in Capitol. So good. Same praise goes towards their use of audio design. Absolutely impeccable!!

The most impactful scene in the entire movie is when Katniss is leaving the scene where she released the Tracker Jackers. The vision of her mother checked out in the sequence of her father going to the mine and the explosion ripping the house to shreds is gut wrenching. What hurts the most is Katniss is pleading wearing the clothes she is wearing in the arena. She is not begging for her mother back after her father passed, she is begging for her mom's help while she is in the arena </333

Another thing I caught while rewatching is the butterfly that lands on Katniss after she flees from the cornucopia. This is mirrored when she is getting crowned by Snow after winning with butterfly eyelashes. It is a subtle way of showing that she may be in his clothing and makeup, but she is not going through the transformation to become one of them- she is transforming to win over them. And isn't that just beautiful?

favorite frames



ratings

screenplay

some of the dialogue can be a little much at times (feels like it appeals to kids) but otherwise this story hits every single mark. Also there is one plot hole and that is why did Peeta help the careers try to kill Katniss and then faced zero repercussions? It was televised... everyone had to see and hear what he said because that is great television, you know? I think the screenplay did well in bringing the characters and the world to life. Suzanne Collins is a brilliant writer and this is my absolute favorite story of all time. I could not praise this enough.

performance

every single person was fantastic at conveying their piece of the story. The aloof and ever-consuming capitol people were highlighted by Tucci's performance- just perfect. My favorites were Willow Shields and Amandla Stenberg- they were so powerful at such a young age. Every single time I watch this film I get so emotional and the performances are a major reason why

editing

I could talk about this forever. The team did such a good job bringing internal conflict/the psyche outward both visually and phonetically. I could not explain how much the shots/scenes where the audio is distorted or dropped means to me. It makes each instance so powerful especially with the change in stability with the camera. The highest praise to the entire editing team

ratings

cinematography

I love how the shots are composed in the different areas of Panem and even the way space is taken up by specific characters. At the reaping, Effie is held so tightly in frame it feels suffocating. That close up of her joy and color is nauseating is District 12. I really loved the blue/green hue carried throughout the film; it left this calming yet dangerous.

set design

the capital perfectly executes the theme of overconsumption and wealth, and how that affects the people in the district as a whole. The act of capitalism harms everyone BUT the wealthy and we can see that through the luxury architecture and overall Capitol design. The districts are beautifully designed to show the opposite end of exploitation because that is what they are: camps for exploration whether it be material or entertainment.

what would I do differently?

1. *I would have tightened up the dialogue a little bit more- there are some instances where it takes me out of the film for a second, but that only happens a handful of times. I think this fix would just make the entirety of the film really smooth— which it already is in my opinion. The Peeta and the Career plot point that I mentioned previously could possibly be curved with directing the attention away from Katniss and Peeta and more towards the Adeline of the “first day of the games!” I think adding more shots of the Capitol betting and participating in over consumption with food and drinks would show why no one brought it up.*
2. *I would have changed the aspect ratio: the 2.55:1 was SO hard on my eyes personally but I completely get the reason for it being used. I think if it even was brought down to 1.85:1 it would have been more comfortable to watch.*
3. *In terms of performances, I would have loved to hang onto Katniss’ reaction to Rue’s murder for just *one* more beat. This scene is really just a melting pot for everything that has happened to Katniss up until this point and by holding onto it for just those few extra seconds would have really just sunken in and let you appreciate Jennifer Lawrence’s performance in full.*

OVERALL...

this is my favorite film of all time and everything comes together phenomenally. It is just so beautiful. Pure art.

*and finally, from Lionsgate films: *The Hunger Games* with a score of... eleven!*

(just kidding)

final score:



10/10 stars

