Writing a movie review

Movie reviews influence and sometimes even decide how well a movie does in the theaters. The reviews are able to sway people one way or the other by pointing out things you don’t know about the movie. I have read reviews of movies and decided to not go see it and picked a different movie. Reviews have more influence than most people realize a good review or a bad review could be a difference of millions of dollars. Reviews have a lot of power when people are trying to decide what movie to see. Many times movie reviews are trying to reach different audiences such as children, Christians, and then adults these are the groups that most reviews are targeting.

There are many different types of reviewers but all of the reviews have similar formats. They talk about the plot, what was good what was bad, and then give their opinion. Reviews done by people like Roger Ebert are usually a lot more respected because of the name and the reputation he has for being a good movie critic. He has a whole site dedicated to just his reviews and when movies are being advertised they will even mention his name saying that he liked it. This is just one example of how much power these movie reviews can influence how a movie does when it is in the theaters.

Roger Ebert is not the only reviewer however who has power. There may not be a name as powerful as Roger Ebert’s but there are websites dedicated to reviewing movies that have just as much influence. There are sites such as Rotten Tomatoes where there are many movie critics but the site is known for its reviews even though there is not one famous name from the site. This is a very good site because there are several reviews of the same movie which gives you a better idea of what is in the movie and making it easier to make a decision.

There also sites like Screenit.com which tells you everything that is in it so that parents can make a more informed decision on whether they should let their children see the movie or not. It gives detailed lists of what swear words are in the movie and how many times they are said. After it tells all this though it goes on to tell the plot of the movie and what they thought of it, they then give a suggestion on how old you should be to see it. This site is different in that it goes into a lot more detail as to what is in the movie they are reviewing. This site is more focused on families and whether or not they think children should go and see the movie.

Then there is another kind of site such as, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, where the reviews are based off of religion. This site gives reviews just like any other but they are more focused on the bad in it than the good. These sites rarely really like a movie that comes out of Hollywood. Religious views influence how these reviews are written so they are usually a biased review against most movies.

Even though all these sites are going to have different opinions and ideas about the movies they usually all follow the same format for how they are written.

 Most reviews are only three or four paragraphs long and they always begin with a brief synopsis of the movie being written about. The critic gives just enough information to let you have an idea of what it is about and it is usually different than other ones found on the internet because everyone sees things differently. This also shows that the person has actually seen the movie which gives him/her a little more credibility.

 The second paragraph or part of a review is where they tell what was good and what was bad about the movie. They talk a little about the things they liked and things that they disliked while at this point trying a little to stay neutral. When writing this piece most reviewers try to give equal amounts of the likes and dislikes they saw in the movie. Some go into detail about these things while others remain a little vague in order to allow you to see things for yourself if you go see the movie.

 The third and usually last paragraph is the opinion of the reviewer. They go into detail about why they thought the previous things were good or why they were bad. By the end of this paragraph it is very obvious what the author thinks about the movie. It is also where they suggest whether it is worth your money and time to see. This is the part on which most people base their decision whether they go or not.

 Many times on the web page where the review of the movie is there will be a picture of the movie being reviewed. It is usually of something that you see on the previews and stands out a little in order to stand out a little. Then there are other sites that will actually have a preview of the movie on the site in order for you to see what they are talking about.

All of this is always in a review they may not be in that exact order all of the time however this is what the average one looks like. Reviews and websites have more influence than the advertisements on how well a movie is going to do in the theaters. Movies such as “Land of the Lost” a movie that came out a while back received really bad reviews from nearly every critic who wrote a review. This kept my friends and I from going to see it in the theaters but we rented it when it came on DVD and it a lot better than any critic said it was. Often times this will happen, many critics will say how bad it is so people don’t go to see it in theaters but rent it when it is on DVD because it is so much cheaper. Everyone once in a while a movie come out that the critics don’t like but gets great reviews from people when it comes out on DVD.

People will often times go back to reading the reviews of the same person for most movies they go see if they agree with the opinions of the critic. When they go see the movie and see that the critic had the same or similar thoughts on the movie they are more likely to go back to his reviews in the future. This is why it is imperative that a review is well written if you wish to gain credibility. Roger Ebert one of the most famous and influential critics has gained his reputation by writing well written reviews and because he has been doing it for so many years. Men like this are sometimes even able to influence how well a movie does in the theaters because his opinion is so well respected.