

WONDER

Film reviews



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by Andra

The 2017 drama and family film *Wonder* is based on a 2012 novel by the same name written by R. J. Palacio. *Wonder* is directed and written by the American novelist and film director Stephen Chbosky. It is a film full of very exceptional actors, including Jacob Tremblay, Izabela Vidovic, Owen Wilson and Julia Roberts. I found this film to be truly inspiring and highly uplifting, especially thanks to the convincing actors and an amazing director.

The film tells us a story about a 10-year-old boy called August, who lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his sister and parents. Auggie was born with a very rare facial deformity and has already undergone 27 surgeries in order to see and hear like an ordinary child. The summer before the fifth grade, Auggie's mom, who has been home-schooling him for the past years, decides that it's time for Auggie to finally go to a mainstream school. This film follows Auggie's struggles and triumphs as he tries his best to fit in with the rest of his classmates. As the story unfolds, we learn that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

The cast was truly well-chosen as all the actors did a beautiful job. I was impressed by how convincing Tremblay was as Auggie, especially in the scenes where he was being bullied or laughed at. It seemed very difficult portraying such strong emotions in acted situations. Vidovic did also an amazing job playing Auggie's sister; her compassion and love for him was compelling. I definitely couldn't have imagined better actors for such important roles.

The director of the film excelled at showing how difficult it is to fit into society as someone quite different from others. All the scenes seemed very thought through, because the plot unfolded just at the right pace. Nothing seemed too slow or too forced. It was heart-warming to see how Auggie slowly grew on everyone, and how he inspired his classmates to be better children.

By the end of this film, you probably feel quite overwhelmed by all the emotions. It's quite an easy watch and I would truly recommend it to everyone, but especially to middle schoolers. I feel as if children their age could definitely learn something new, and see how important it is to be kind to everyone, no matter how they look.



by Enriko

Wonder is a fascinating movie about a boy named Auggie. The film was released in 2017 and it was directed by Stephen Chbosky. The movie was adapted from the 2012 novel of the same name by R. J. Palacio. The film had a too quick and weird ending, but it got many good reviews and was nominated to many film awards.

The film is about Auggie, who has a facial disorder. He has been home-schooled by his mother; however, when he turns ten, he is put to a local middle school because his mom cannot teach him anymore. Auggie's first school day is very bad because he has no friends and he is bullied by Julian, who plays an angel for his teachers' eyes. As the story unfolds, we will learn that Auggie makes friends, falls out, gets deeply hurt, but gets a medal for being a good student, in the end.

The characters in the movie were all different. Every character had their own emotions, which were openly expressed by very professional actors, making them look very real. Also, the costumes were great, and the make-up artists must have spent hours in order to create Auggie's prosthetic makeup.

I think this movie was very emotional and some scenes made me almost cry. It was very sad when Auggie was bullied in school, but his friend and family supported him so much. I think this movie shows that we need to hold each other and support our friends when they need us. This movie shows that a boy with facial disorder can have dreams and he can be a very good person.

In the end, I think this movie is worth all these good reviews people have written. I would give this movie all the film awards in the world if I was someone in power to do so. It is a really great movie. I really recommend watching it.



by Ivika

Wonder is a 2017 American drama film, directed by Stephen Chbosky, and winning mostly performance and makeup awards. It is based on a 2012 book of the same name, written by Raelin Jaramillo Palacio. The film seemed great at the beginning as it had an interesting-enough start and a nerve-racking middle part; however, it sadly had a disappointing end.

The protagonist is a 10-year-old boy named August Pullman (Jacob Tremblay), who suffers from facial deformities. The film gets started with the scene in which Auggie goes to a public school for the first time in his life, he is immediately given a tour by Jack Will, Julian and Charlotte. Still, he will have to face many challenges before other kids learn to accept him for what he truly is

This film had a very interesting way to tell its story – through different perspectives. This gave those characters who were less important a chance to shine in the film, as well. On the other hand, I have seen films which make a far better use of this technique since they make their stories connect to one another properly. Nevertheless, this is still a rarely used technique so far as I know. From the start, you already know that this is going to be sad. As we get closer and closer to the climax, I felt more sympathy towards the characters. At that point, to be honest, things started going downhill.

This film had so much potential with its good acting and plot, and it was really frustrating to see how this almost-perfect film was ruined due to an utterly ineffective ending. To me, the ending is one of the most important parts about a film, for if the film ends horribly, then it leaves you disappointed after you've spent your precious time on it. I'm not a big fan of happy endings. I'd rather take a liking to endings which have both sad and happy parts; for example, one of the main characters dies, but others live. *Wonder*, however, had an unrealistic, almost too perfect ending, where the problems were solved extremely fast. Halfway through the ending, I started to understand the pattern and predicted the rest.

In conclusion, this film's best parts were its amazing cast and the dramatic story it told, but its unrealistic end was rather questionable. Even so, this film successfully delivered the message to the audience, as planned. In a ten-point scale, I would give this film 7/10, and I would recommend it to anyone who likes the drama genre with a happy ending.



by Laura Eva Helena

Wonder is a 2017 film by Stephen Chbosky, which is based on a 2012 book of the same name written by R. J. Palacio. The main character, Auggie Pullman, is played by Jacob Tremblay, but this film also stars famous actors Owen Wilson and Julia Roberts playing Auggie's parents. Although the film is highly rated, it is like a real life fairy tale – too good to be true.

It is the first time for Auggie, who has a Treacher Collins syndrome, to go to school. His parents aren't sure if he is ready because he will have to meet many different people. He does make some friends, but he also faces bullying because he looks different. As the story unfolds, we can see Auggie and Jack Will becoming friends, falling out, and then making up again. Also, the story includes Auggie's sister Via, who has relationship problems with her best friend Miranda and her parents. The story reveals the reasons why Jack Will and Miranda acted the way they did. In *Wonder*, you can actually see problems that lots of people have, and how to learn to accept oneself not matter what.

Wonder is made to look as realistic as possible. To start with, in school scenes, where Auggie wants to prove other children that he is worthy of talking to, he has to face others feeling weird around him. However, it is his family who always supports him as families usually do. I quite liked Roberts and Wilson playing loving parents, who always want best for their children, exceptionally well. Different shots, for example close-up shots, where you can see their emotions, and long shots, where you can see the whole picture, also made me realise how different actions affected the characters.

Most characters were good, but Julian was a villain. All characters were shown as ordinary people who mostly wanted to make Auggie feel that way, as well. For example, Jack wanted to be accepted by others, but he also wanted to be friends with the "weird" kid – Auggie. What made this film unrealistic, however, was that all other kids in his school were too supportive. Auggie got bullied, but like in a fairy tale, the villain got punished.

In conclusion, watching *Wonder* makes us relate to our problems. It makes us think and want to become better people because it shows that our actions have consequences. Because the film has a fairy tale kind of ending, it isn't hard to watch. It shows that everyone wants to be accepted. Because it is a heart-warming film, it is not only entertaining, but also lifting one's spirits.



by Leiki-Maria

Wonder is a 2017 American comedy-drama family film directed by Stephen Chbosky. The film is based on 2012 novel of the same name R. J. Palacio. It stars Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay, Izabela Vidovic, Mandy Patinkin, and Daveed Diggs. Wonder is relatable as it shows their problems, daily struggles but also miracles.

The film is about a boy named August Pullman who has a face deformity; more specifically, Treacher Collins Syndrome. Auggie feels ordinary as he acts like any other kid, but he just doesn't look ordinary. Because he is so different looking, people have rarely given him a chance to show them who he really is.

Wonder has many things that people can relate to – all those problems and miracles. The film starts with Auggie going to proper school (he was home schooled before) and his parents being quite worried. They know that the world and other kids can be really cruel to him, but they can't hide him forever. I would feel the same way if I was Auggie's parent. I would want to keep him safe from everything because he is so rare and different. So I would make sure nothing harmed him. I think that it was a brave thing for the parents to let him go to school. As the matter of fact, it would be a brave thing for ANY PARENT to do.

The film shows all these daily struggles of a family with a kid that has special needs; for example, other kids giving him all these weird looks. Auggie's first school experience was something that we all have felt – bullying, betrayal, first friends and enemies, feeling absolutely distraught and out of place. I need to be honest, watching Auggie's struggling even made me emotional. So I was very glad that he had such an amazing family who never gave up on him. I'm glad that Auggie found Jack Wil, and I am also glad that despite their ups and downs, Jack stood by his side.

Wonder gives several characters an opportunity to tell their own stories, which is a great idea, but some parts of the film were quite unnecessary as they lacked the depth. For example, they could have left out problems with the family dog, as well as the relationship between Justin and Miranda. Moreover, the film should have stayed focused mostly on Auggie. He must have felt that the whole world was against him, but it wasn't really brought out in the film. Personally, I would've liked to see Julian's viewpoint as well, in order to understand better what made him act in such a mean way.

All in all, the film in all was wonderfully made. In my opinion, the cast and acting were great. I was blown away by it. Really loved those actors. I cried a lot and it really hit home for me. I recommend watching it if you want to cry or feel some kind of remorse.



by Richard Miikael

Wonder is a 2017 comedy-drama film which is directed by Stephen Chbosky, and it stars Jacob Tremblay, Owen Wilson and Izabela Vidovic as the main cast. The film is quite immersive at multiple points, but in the end, the sheer unrealism of the plot leaves me quite disappointed.

Wonder is a wonderful story about a kid called Auggie. Having Treacher Collins Syndrome, Auggie suffers from low self-esteem and from bullying in school by a kid called Julian. Due to Auggie having no friends, Jack Will is told by his Mom to become friends with Auggie. Even though he is told to do so, over time, he becomes a real friend for Auggie. So everything is great until the moment when Auggie overhears him talking behind his back, after which Auggie's self-esteem falls and his world slowly starts to fall apart.

The film's storytelling was really good. It covered all the plot points, without leaving a lot of holes. The beginning was also very good and realistic as it created really high expectations about Auggie's family and Auggie himself. The problems presented in the film were something you would expect from real life, and those scenes actually did keep the pressure building up. On top of that, the film's storytelling was only enhanced by the meticulous childlikeness from the main actors.

However, even though the storytelling was good, it fell short on realism. Auggie wasn't pressured much when bullied, and at some point the bullying even seemed to stop for a while. When Jack Will became a friend of Auggie, he also wouldn't fall a victim of the bullying, nor would a school official ask someone to become a new kid's friend. The bullying also stopped after Julian left, which broke the immersion. The lackeys of Julian were also really impressionable, and they started holding Auggie in high respect after he stood his ground against 7th grade bullies.

Wonder is a lovely, inspiring film, which gives a good victim perspective. The only problem with the film for me, is its unrealism. Therefore, I would suggest the film only to those who just want to watch a beautiful film.



by Sander

Wonder – a movie by Stephen Chbosky, which was released in 2017, is based on the novel of the same name by R.J. Palacio, published in 2012. It is an American comedy-drama film that features movie stars Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay and Izabela Vidovic. At first glance, it may seem a bit boring, but the storyline is well built up, and with each minute, the movie gets more interesting. Because of August's abnormal appearance on set, it really makes it easier to understand the reactions of other children. Also, the deeds and emotions of the main characters portrayed very well by the actors add this film extra value.

The movie follows a year in the life of a 10-year-old genius named August Pullman (played by Jacob Tremblay), Auggie, for short. The boy was born with a facial deformity and was required to undergo many surgeries and operations in his earliest days. The amount of surgeries racks up to 27. The movie is about how Auggie faces many challenges due to his facial deformity. In the beginning, he gets constantly bullied, but in the long run, he manages to make some friends and be seen as a normal kid that everyone likes and appreciates.

To make the actor Jacob Tremblay look like the character August Pullman, makeup artists spent hours on modelling and perfecting his look before every casting day. It's not in vain, as in the film, August's face looks so real that one may think the actor really looked like that. It was quite shocking to see this little boy without his astronaut helmet for the first time in the movie.

The reactions that the actors portrayed after certain scenes did add to the watching experience. It seemed as if the actors were almost mirroring my reactions in some of the scenes; for instance, the first time they saw the poor boy's face. The way people treated August in the beginning was quite disgraceful, but the way he got treated in the end made up for everything that was done badly in the past. Thanks to great acting, it was easy to sympathize with Auggie.

Wonder is all around a great family movie. It has everything you would want from a movie that you can watch with your whole family, ranging from relatable moments all the way to the heart-warming ones. I would highly recommend watching this movie on New Year's Eve, or on any nice Friday evening, because it really gives off a nice vibe for the rest of the day.

