



Movie Reviews

by

Eva, Clara, Julie, Jill, Joris and Chris



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By **Eva**



“Blinded by the lights” is a story about a young Pakistani teenager, who is trying to find his place in the world and who wants to follow his dream of becoming a writer. The main character, Javed, is played by Viveik Kalra. Kulvinder Ghir, Nell Williams and Hayley Atwell are among certain other actors also part of the cast. This comedy-drama was directed by Gurinder Chadha and released in 2019. It is set in the eighties in Luton, England. The movie is based on Sarfraz Manzoor’s memoirs and his love for Bruce Springsteen.

The story is about Javed, a Pakistani teenager who lives in Luton. He writes poems about his problems like racism and his father’s high expectations of him. He wants Javed to study economics; he urges his son to succeed and become a wealthy man. But the Pakistani boy has his own dream. He wants to become a writer. However, he is about to give up on his dream after his father loses his job, as his family faces poverty.

His life changes completely after he discovers the music of Bruce Springsteen due to his new friend Roops, which inspires him to follow his dream. Springsteen writes in his songs about the people of the working class and finding his own voice and place in the world. This really means a lot to Javed as he feels very connected to Springsteen and the lyrics of his songs.

The actors played their parts very well. Their acting was quite believable and moving. Viveik Kalra even was nominated as Best Actor at the 2019 SIFF Awards. When watching the film, you are completely in their world and it is easy to follow the story. Although the singing moments are sometimes a little weird, I liked that they underline the moment and feelings of the characters pretty well. You can really feel Javed’s love for Springsteen’s music.

I definitely would recommend “Blinded by the lights” because it contains important messages such as you should always follow your dream and you can achieve anything you want if you are ready to work hard for it. It also addresses topics as racism towards immigrants, which is still very important in our times. Of course, fans of Bruce Springsteen will no doubt be thrilled by this. If you are a fan of the eighties you should not miss it. It is well worth seeing!



By Chris

«Blinded by the light» is a true story about a young Pakistani man, who's trying to find his voice. In 2019 the movie, which is directed by Gurinder Chadha, was released. The cast includes the main character Javed as Vineeth Kabra, his girlfriend Eliza played by Nelly Williams and his father Malik as Kulveder Ghir, who lives with his Pakistani family in Luton.

North London. Luton. 1987. Javed, a 16-year old, who tries to understand life through the music of his favorite artist, has big dreams of being a writer. He has much talent and even won competitions. He is touched by the rockstar Bruce Springsteen, who inspires him through his songs to follow his dreams and affects his feelings and behavior by his music. Javed lives in a time when society was even more racist than nowadays, which makes his and his family's life even more difficult every day. But not only that, his Pakistani father stops Javed's dreams and plans because he just wants the best for the family, in his eyes. He wants him to be a lawyer or a doctor, but this is not what Javed wants for his own future.

The plot focuses on emotions, Javed's emotions switch all the time. Often, the music impacts his feelings or the feelings impacts his choice of music. The chemistry between him and his father is shown very well. But especially if you really don't like the music of Bruce Springsteen, which is played very often, the movie can be sometimes a bit annoying.

I think this is a good movie to watch if you have plenty of time to spare. Because it takes a while to watch it and isn't a really thrilling movie. But for me personally, I like the way how it shows that music can inspire especially young people, people our age. So if you have the time, watch it!

By Joris

'Blinded by the light' is an inspiring story about the life of a journalist who loves the works of Bruce Springsteen. The film is directed by Gurinder Chadha. The cast includes Aaron Phagura and Viveik Kalra, who plays the role of Javed, a Pakistani boy, who loves England and whose life is controlled by his father.

The story plays in the City of Luton in England, where Javed lives with his family. Javed is a passionate writer, but he is too shy to publish his texts. His father wants him to study economics but instead, he visits a writing class; when his teacher discovers his talent in his writing, he encourages him to continue writing and not give up. He applies for many jobs but because of his Pakistani origin he isn't accepted and he can't write texts for the public. Then he discovers the songs of Bruce Springsteen, and he interprets his texts; thereafter his life changes a lot. He is getting happier and his writings are getting better and better. One day, he leaves home after an argument with his father; but later realizes that family is the most important thing and he goes back to his family.

The film shows a lot of emotions, e. g. in the relationship between father and son or between young adults, and it describes the situation of the Pakistanis in England very impressively. On the hand, they work hard to get accepted by British society and achieve wealth and social status. On the other hand, they are often not treated as equals, they sometimes face prejudice and rejection.

All the actors play their roles really well and they show well their emotions.

It is a really good movie and I only can recommend you to watch it. Javed's story is an inspiring example of how much music can affect your life and that you should do what you love, no matter what other people think or say about it.

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

By Jill

'Blinded by the Light' is based on a real-life story of a British boy with Pakistani parents whose life changed after listening to the American singer Bruce Springsteen. The story is set in a large town called Luton. The film's director is Gurinder Chadha, and the cast includes Viveik Kalra as Javed, Kulvinder Ghir and Meera Ganatra as his parents and Aaron Phagura as his turbaned Sikh friend Roops.

The film is based on the memoirs of journalist Sarfraz Manzoor, and also co-written by him.



"They're not brilliant, but they're mine."
- Javed

In 1987, Javed lives as a college student in Luton with an overwhelming father. He's only got one friend: Matt. Depressed by his life, he spends his time on his hobby: writing poems. In college, he finds a new friend, Roops, who introduced him to an American singer: Bruce Springsteen. Little does he know that this singer will change his life and the way he looks at things. Now he wants to reach out for his dreams. Sadly, his unemployed father is strictly against it. He doesn't want to understand his son and his dreams. Javed stands in front of a big decision: His family or his goals. What is more important? What will be his decision?

This film includes music from the 80s. The lyrics of those songs play an important role in this drama. It represents the emotions of Javed but also his thoughts. The actors, especially Viveik Kalra give believable performances. The movie may be a bit boring because it doesn't happen much, but the story is touching and shows how the life of a Pakistani in a different country can be.

This movie is well worth seeing. It will encourage you to reach your goals. Besides, it will teach you a lot, such as: Don't be racist towards innocent people who are not from your country.

By Clara



'Blinded by the Light' was inspired by a true story. The title of the book is Greetings from Bury Park. It's a story about a Pakistani teenager named Javed, who lives in Luton, England. He is a boy who dreams of becoming a writer and he finds his way through the music of Bruce Springsteen. The film's director is Gurinder Chadha, and the cast includes Viveik Kalra as Javed and his parents as Kulvinder Ghir, Meera Ganatra and Aaron Phagura as his friend Roops.

Javed is a young British boy with Pakistani parents. His father is a very strict man. He lives in Luton, a small town in England. He is a victim of racism because he has Pakistani roots and he lives in a country where the Pakistanis are not accepted. In his free time, he writes poems about how he feels. His biggest dream is to become a writer but his father is against it. The father wants his son to have a "real job", he wants him to study economics because he is unemployed and his family doesn't have enough money. He meets a new friend Roops in his new school, who introduces him to Bruce Springsteen. When he listens to Springsteen's songs, his vision of life changes. He wants to fulfill his dream of becoming a writer.

There is a lot of music in the film, although I think there is too much. However, it plays an important role. The music represents what Javed feels. I think Javed plays his part very well. I can imagine what it would be like to live in a country of a different culture than my own and be judged for it.

I recommend this film because it will touch your heart to see a boy fighting for his dream and maybe you can identify yourself with this boy's life. Don't miss it.

By Julie



Blinded by the Light is a tragicomedy based on Sarfraz Manzoor's book "Greetings from Bury Park", a tribute to Bruce Springsteen and a memoir about how music can change a life. It is the story of a Pakistani boy who lives with his family in England, but he feels misunderstood and wants to get out of his town as soon as possible. The film is directed by Gurinder Chadha. The cast includes Viveik Kalra as Javed, the leading actor, Kulvinder Ghir as Javed's father and Aaron Phagura as Roops.

Javed lives with his family in Luton, a town near London. He hates the overt racism in town and the pressure of his father. His dream is to become a writer, but his father disagrees. His father wants him to work and earn money because the family does not have much money due to the father's unemployment. In high school, he meets his future girlfriend Elisa. Elisa is not like the other girls, she is special to him and she understands him. He also meets Roops, who introduces him to the music of the American singer Bruce Springsteen. Thanks to his music, Javed feels understood and begins to pursue his dream. But his father disapproves of his new way of life and after arguing with his father, Javed left his family. Only at the end of the film he finds his way back to his family. He can also convince his father of his talent for writing.

There was a lot of music in the film, which went well with the scenes, but sometimes the part with the music was drawn out too long. I think that the emotions were well conveyed by the actors. I think it was good that the style of the characters and the picture quality adapted to the time in which the film was set.

I think the film is worth watching because it makes you change your perspective about certain things what it is like to live as a Pakistani in Great Britain, for example. Besides, you shouldn't just stick to your view. Because often the other person doesn't mean any evil and only wants the best for you and wants you to be happy. The father meant well for his son, but Javed's dream was to become a writer, and only that made him happy.