



STUDENT FILM REVIEWS

Film: Blinded by the Light, 2019

Reviewed by **Andreas, Elisabeth, Jeppe, Miriam, Morten and Nichlas.**
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by *Andreas*

Blinded of the dream... "Blinded by the Light" is a 2019 is a comedy-drama film directed by Gurinder Chadha and is based on the novel by Sarfraz Manzoor's autobiographical novel, "Greetings from Bury Park", with the actors Viveik Kalra, Aaron Phagura, Nell Williams, and Hayley Atwell. It shows well how racism towards Pakistanis in England, even genuinely foreigners in general how bad it was, and how they treated them, but also how you could get out of it in the 1987 and how inspirational the American dream and singer Bruce Springsteen.

"Blinded by the Light" shows a story that revolves around a Pakistan boy named Javed Khan, he is a 16-year-old boy who lives in England with his family in the town of Luton, He got into their high school, trying to fit in as a foreigner, while still trying to fit in with his very traditional Pakistani family. While in school Javed figures out, he is good at writing and proceed to try and become famous on it, while he works on that he finds an English girl that he gets together with, shows out for him that it might not be the reason he thought it was, but to rebel her towards her parents. Later he wins a big competition and gets to go to America, but to his despair, his family doesn't want him to go, but he does so anyway so they split, whereas later they find together again.

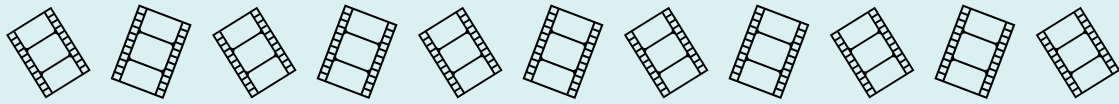
The main characters family stays strong together in the start and the end, but splits up in the middle, for example in the middle where Javed (The main Character) gets the ticket to the US, his family doesn't stand with him whereas he leaves either way. Slowly after he returns, they get back again. Besides the main character in the start shows insecurity and doesn't really know what to do, but later when he finds a friend with same culture as him, his friend shows him how to gain confidence and go live his dream and infects him with the American dream. Whereas he proceeds to try and live it.

"Blinded by the Light" goes in one story primarily through the whole film, but you slowly get small views into other characters story, but we follow Javed in most of the story, where you see how he feels about the school, about the racism towards him, and how he gains his confidence and get stronger and gets to possibly live his dream of becoming a writer.

In conclusion, "Blinded by the Light" is a great film on showing how life for a foreigner was in the 1980s was, and how you can gain and possibly live the American dream. It also shows how for some family's traditions are important whereas others it doesn't matter anything to them.

My review, "Blinded by the Light" isn't anything I personally would watch as it is nothing for me or what I like to watch, so therefor I give it a 3/10.





by Elisabeth

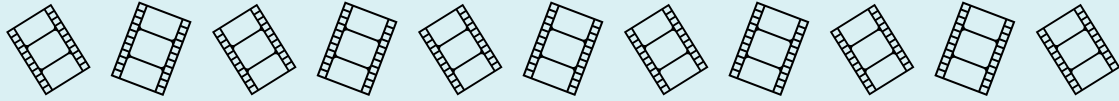
Blinded by Bruce. The film "Blinded by the Light" is a Music/Drama/Comedy movie. The 113 minutes long film is based on a real story about a boy and his huge idol. The film came out in 2019 and are directed and produced by Gurinder Chadha.

The year is 1987-1988. We follow the sixteen-year-old, Pakistani, Javed Khan, who live in Luton, England with his mother, father, sister, and cousin. Javed's best friend is Matt, even though they are complete opposites. Javed hates most everything about his life in Luton, to where his parents long time ago emigrated from Pakistan for a better life. He hates how the political system work, and how it effects their life as a member of the working class. He hates how his traditional father controls everything in his life which classes he takes, that he is to hand over any money he earns for the family, even how he spends his social time. He hates the racism, all of them anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistani in the town. He hates how his family and Pakistani friends keep their head down for the overt racism in the town. Javed love to write, especially poetry, he sees it as a runaway from the real world with its high expectations. Everything changes when a Pakistani friend introduces him for the musician Bruce Springsteen. A whole new world opens for Javed. He finds Springsteen's lyrics relatable, and they help him to come out of his comfort zone. He hands over all his work to his English teacher, who want to help him to following his dream about becoming a writer. He gets courage to ask his crush, Eliza, out and confronting his controlling father.

The film is based on a true story. The real Javed is journalist Sarfraz Manzoor and "Blinded by the Light" is based on his book "Greetings From Bury". The film was also made with the blessing of Springsteen himself, who allowed 17 songs to be used in the film. The main character, Javed, is played by Viveik Kalra. He did a great job as Javed and gave us a reliable knowledge and example of, how racism and a typical culture feels and looks like. The film wasn't my cup of tea. I found that a little bit boring, maybe because of all the music, I don't usually hear, and it fell a bit too much like a musical and got overdramatic. It could also be because I find it difficult to relatable to the main character. Even though, I think there was a lot of things, that we can learn from the film, like how you should follow your dream, and how we easily get blinded by our surroundings and forget to follow our heart. When Javed hands over his poems to his teacher, he uses the phrase "*They're not brilliant, but they're mine*". This phrase fits perfectly because the film is about how to be yourself and be real. The message most be how to navigate between your passion and family. In the film, Javed uses this phrase, who made a big impact on me "*My hope is to build a bridge to my ambitions, but not a wall between my family and me*".

Rating: I will rate the movie to 4/10, mostly because of the overdramatic-musical scenes, who made the message a bit unclear, but overall gives the film a good picture of how to follow you dream and never give up.





by Jeppe

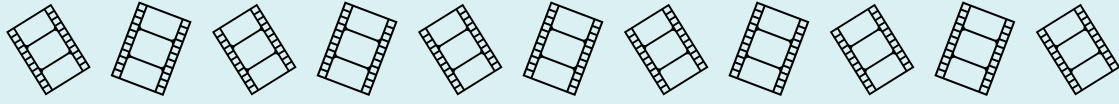
"Blinded by the Light" was released the 27th of January 2019. Some of the big actors were Nell Williams, Dean Charles. The instructor of the movie was Gurinder Chadha. She has also made other films like "Spice of Love" and "What's Cooking". She most makes films about Indian culture.

The film *Blinded by the Light* is about the dream of a young boy named Javed. Javed wants to be an author and writes lyrics and poems in his free time. Javed is Pakistani and lives in an OK neighbourhood. But there are a lot of problems in Javed's life before he becomes an adult, he gets bullied because he is of another ethnic group. But there is always light in the dark, when he meets a friend in the dark who stands up for him. Later in the story we see him with his family and can see he has family problems between him and his dad, he wants him to be like him, but Javed wants to go his own way. In the start he still does what his father says he should do. But the Javed meets a special friend that shows him Springsteen's songs, and after listening to the songs he finally understands that he needs to do what he likes. Javed begins to change into the person he wants to be he is growing stronger bolder, he first of all shows other people Springsteen's talents, he stops doing what his father says he should stop giving him money so he can do as he pleases. Javed also finally musters up the courage to ask other people to be his friend. He also finally sees the quotes Springsteen has been using like "*Talk about a dream, try to make it real.*" Javed becomes a new version of himself after all that are what he learned of the quotes. In the end he begins to calm down and find out that he should not be too much of Springsteen nor too much of what his fathers want him to be. But be what Javed wants to be.

The film "*Blinded by the Light*" is based on a true story from when Sarfraz Manzoor, was in Luton and wanted to be a writer he never hoped that his story would end as a great movie in the 2019. He wrote the script with Gurinder Chadha and Paul Mayeda. And the one who directed the film was Gurinder Chadha.

The film was a good film it was funny but also showed things from other themes as well. One of the bigger things was mainly the racism and how they showed what it was like being a Pakistani in the great Britain. The topic was also how you need to live out your life instead of always listen to the people around you who say you shall do that and maybe don't do that. You don't have to listen to them. If I were to give it stars, I would give 4,5 out of 5 the last 0,5 star is because it's not funny enough for my taste but that isn't the main topic though.





by Miriam

The movie "Blinded by the Light" from 2019 is based on journalist Sarfraz Manzoor's memoir "Greetings from Bury Park" from 2007, which is about his upbringing and life-changing love of Bruce Springsteen. The movie is directed by the British film director Gurinder Chadha. Who also wrote the script with her husband Paul Mayeda-Burges and Sarfraz Manzoor. There are a lot of important actors/actresses in this film, some of them are Viveik Kalre (plays the lead, Javed), Kulvinder Ghir (Malik, Javed's dad), Aaron Phagura (Roops), Nell Williams (Eliza, Javed's girlfriend), Hayley Atwell (Ms. Clay), Nikita Mehta (Shazia, Javed's sister) and Dean-Charles Chapman (Matt, Javed's childhood friend).

"Blinded by the Light" is set in the year 1987, in the small town of Luton in Great Britain. Where Javed's family struggles financially to make a living in the time, Margaret Thatcher where prime minister. They also face a time with racist attacks on immigrants. Jared lives heavily with his parents (most his dad) expectations of becoming financially independent and getting a good job (like a doctor or lawyer). He's not allowed to have a social life, a girlfriend and independence - for example his father says to him "Pakistanis do not go to parties" in which Javed replied, "I thought I was British". All of it means that he hides not just his dream of becoming a writer, but almost every other aspect of his personality.

Javed writes essays, poems, a diary, and lyrics (for Matt's band), about feeling trapped, lost, and frustrated about his life and not having a voice. This change then he is introduced by his good friend and classmate, Roops, who hands him a Bruce Springsteen cassette. As Javed listens to "Dancing in the dark", his entire soul, and thoughts, explodes with feelings of understanding and hope. Javed never knew music could be like this - so powerful and could speak so easily and directly to him. He then becomes a superfan of the boss (Springsteen) - so much as he starts dressing as him. But his discovery of Springsteen's music leads him into all kinds of adventures, a romance and a conflict with his father and best friend Matt.

It's about him coming to terms with who he is in life, in his family, with his faith, but also dealing with all the racism against Muslims - who is considered as lesser in society. Which is a very powerful topic and gives a great message. But it's all presented in this musical genre format without being a musical - entire village singing along and coordinated dancing. It feels way over the top and over dramatic at times, making what the lead character is going through not as problematic as it should be. I feel like if they would've gone 100% one way or another, this would've been a better movie. As a straight drama it would've been more emotional, powerful, and touching, with a more serious and darker look of racism, we don't often get to see. If they went full musical, it could've been this light-hearted and fun movie of the way, music can transform our lives and free us from the bad times in our lives. Instead, it tries to have both and because of that neither feel as effective to me.



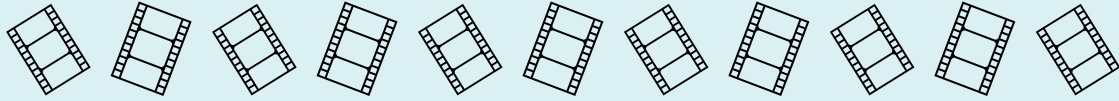


All that said, there are some strong performances here. I personally feel like Kulvinder Ghir (dad) did an excellent job, by bringing both humour and humanity (pain and fear) to his performance. He fears losing his job (which he ends up losing) because he needs to provide for his family. He wants the best for his son, even if he can't commit to his son becoming a writer ("You can choose to be a doctor or a lawyer, so don't say I don't give you any freedom!") at first. He doesn't understand the Springsteen thing at all - he doesn't like what he can't understand but changes his mind, then the fear of losing his son is way worse.

I also like how the movie amazingly captures the experience of being a fan, the moment you find something you can truly connect with and want to learn and dig into, the great friendships you can build, and how the fandom can help you grow as a person. The movie shows how people of all races and genders can come together and feel connected by an artform - which here is music. In the end, "Blinded by the Light" is a movie with a beautiful message of hope, dreams, and love with a great tribute to the boss.

I would rate this 5 out of 10 stars.





by Morten

The movie "Blinded by the Light" is directed by [Gurinder Chadha](#) and produced by [Gurinder Chadha](#), [Jane Barclay](#), [Jamal Daniel](#), written by [Sarfraz Manzoor](#), [Gurinder Chadha](#), [Paul Mayeda Berges](#).

It got released on Aug 16, 2019, in the theatres but for streaming on Aug 27, 2019. It costed 11,9m dollars to make and was a Hough success in most of the world. It describes the situation of a lot of immigrants in the world, so it's going to be a good lesson to watch before we start judge people from our stereotypes because someone just wants to be them self instead of being liked by the public.

The movie "Blinded by the Light" is about Javed who is A Pakistani teenager who experiences racial and economic turmoil while living in Luton, England. He writes poetry as a way to escape the intolerance of his hometown and the stubborn views of his traditional father. When A classmate introduces him to the music of Bruce Springsteen, Javed sees parallels between the singer's powerful lyrics and his own working-class environment.

If you look at Javed, he's the main character, and you follow him all the way, and you can see his friend matt who stop being with him as his other friends looked down on him for being with Javed, and when Javed started becoming someone around the end of the movie, he wanted to be a part of Javed's life again, but Javed didn't let him he kept his life on the path he was on and didn't go back to his old friends that doubted him.

So, in general it's a great movie and something to watch especially if you're in the same situation as Javed, and you want to get out of the stereotype but don't know if it would change or go bad. I would really like to recommend this movie even though you can't see yourself in it, it's still very good, and I think most people would like it.





by Nichlas

The movie "Blinded by the Light" was made and directed by Gurinder Chadha in 2019. This movie was made with a budget of 60 million\$ before earning them a hefty 250 million\$.

The movie is about Javed Khan and his Journey through University in Luton. Javed dreams of becoming a writer, but things keep getting in his way. His friend Matt keeps calling his Lyrics sad and depressing, His father wants him to get an education so he can get a "real job" because "a Pakistani can't be a writer." Although through all these hardships he finds something that helps him through, this man is none other than Bruce Springsteen and his different songs. It's like these songs are almost made for him to inspire him, his life almost instantly makes a complete "turn" as he begins having more and more fun. Javed begins testing some limits to see just how far he can go with his writing career and life in general. This movie is packed full of Bruce Springsteen songs and emotions.

The Actors in this movie did great. You can really see the different emotions that the characters go through during this movie. There are some things that the movie could have done better such as maybe cut down on the overdramatic scenes such as when the song born to run was playing to Javed running around outside or when they break into the school music room and put on a Bruce Springsteen song and then start running around dancing like crazy. This movie also does a lot of great things such as the camera perspective, and how they use it to their advantage. As an example, I'll use the scene where Javed leans against a wall listening to Bruce Springsteen's "dancing in the dark" we see the Lyrics behind him on the wall. This is also seen at the start of the song, when Javed is sitting in his room, we see the lyrics spinning around his head.

All in all, I'll rate this movie a 6/10 mainly because of all the singing scenes that was just way too overdramatic, although it has those scenes, the movie is still good. Its way of showing the characters and their emotions, this movie absolutely nails that aspect. The movie makes you understand the characters, and how they feel. You see why the characters do what they do. And I'm sure anyone who watches this movie will enjoy it, you may not love it – but you will surely like it.

