

## *Blinded by the light*

In the cinematic world there are loads of drama movies that try to represent serious topics such as homophobia, death or racism.

*Blinded by the light* is a movie made by the director Gurinder Chadha and her crew, with which they try to represent a Pakistani journalist's life, Sarfraz Manzoor.

This was accomplished thanks to the actor's, who played the main role as Javed, great representation, Viveik Kalra.

Javed is a sixteen-year-old Pakistani boy, who lives in a little English town known as Luton, in the 1980s, with his family.

In those times, being either black or Asian brought multiple difficulties such as stereotypes, judgment, hatred, exclusion... But those weren't the only obstacles he had to face, since he lived in a poor family ruled by his father's wishes and needs, making him unable to even have dreams of his own, turning him into an obedient, quiet guy.



This situation started to change once he discovered the singer "Bruce Springsteen", since most of his songs touched topics that he related deeply to. This had a huge impact on him, changing not just his perspective, but also making the people pleasing part of himself, start to fade away, allowing him to beat the racism, prejudices and grow as a person, discovering himself.

All of these changes in his personality, caused him to gain confidence and allow him to stop fearing people, driving him into making new friendships, and developing himself as a writer. Nevertheless, there were a few negative alternations, for example, by using the excuse that he had never had a true life of his own, he became a very selfish person, who only cared about himself, hurting everyone around him. Thankfully, by the end of the movie, he realised how he had truly behaved, and how it didn't really matter everything he earned, if he had to hurt everyone he love in his path.

So, due to all of this, I believe this movie is a great way of showing multiple values, since it shows several aspects, starting off with Javed's start point, showing the cruelty loads of immigrants have to go through, with racism and poverty. As well as his progress as a person, making it more realistic by exposing the flaws and mistakes any human could make when trying to discover themselves.

So in conclusion, I really enjoyed it, since it shows how taking care of yourself is important, but it doesn't give you the right to smash people on your way up.

By Ariadna Cardeñas Giménez

## *Blinded by the light*

*This film is a drama that deals with major problems of society such as racism between different religions.*

*Guriender Chadha is the director of this film, in this film she tried to portray the life of a Pakistani boy, Sarfraz Manzoor, and the many problems he had to face to become someone he wanted to be.*

*Sarfraz was played by Viveik Kalra, who had the role of the main character, who was called Javed.*

*This film is established in the 1980s in a small town of England known as Luton. Javed is a sixteen-year-old Pakistani boy who lived in this town with his family.*

*At the beginning of the film Javed is shown as an insecure and quiet person, this is because he is controlled by his father's wishes and needs, making his own child unable to reach his dreams to become a writer. In addition, in those times being either black or Asian brought up many problems such as judgement, exclusion and racism.*

*He began to change his attitude towards everything once he discovered the singer 'Bruce Springsteen', this happens because he felt identified with the lyrics to these ones, this singer sang about topics that related to his point of view of seeing society. He related deeply to his lyrics.*

*This singer had a huge impact not only on his attitude and behaviour that allowed him to make new friendships and relationships, but also his point of view as he has the courage to overcome racism, prejudices that allow him to grow as a person, and fulfil his dream.*

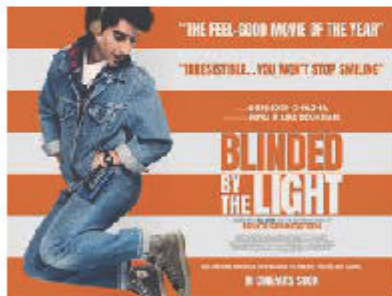
*Even Though he grew as a person, this also made him a very selfish person, who only cared about himself and what he wanted, hurting everyone around him, for example his family and friends. Thankfully, by the end of the film he realised the behaviour he is having towards others and he changes for a bigger and better person that is grateful for every sacrifice his family had to overcome from him.*



*In conclusion, I really enjoyed this film, I will recommend watching it as it has a lovely back and moral story to it. This film shows how important values are, and how is important to reach your dreams, but is also very important to never forget from where we come from, and always have in mind everything our parents had to do for us.*

Film review

# Blinded by the light



By: Lucía Llorca Bermejo

## Film review

### **Blinded by the light**

By: LucíaLlorca Bermejo

#### Characters

**Javed:** Is a suburban teenager from a Muslim family. He seems so shy and socially awkward and speciallyobsessed with Springsteen's music and. He aspires to be a writer in the future, in addition to finding love, having a lot of money, and going to live outside of Luton.

**Malik:** He is the father of the family. He does not understand his son or his tastes, although it seems that he wants the best for him.

**Roops:** He is one of the high school students, and he is the one who teaches Javed Springsteen's music. He isquite social and lively.

**Matt:** He is Javed's neighbor, and has been his friend forever. He is outgoing and loved by all the girls

**. Elizza:** She is a girl who loves politics, who comesfroma rather racist and conservative family. She is the onewho falls in love with Javed and shares his dream withhim.

**MR. Evans:** He is Javed's neighbor. It is about an olderman who since discoveringJaved's talent in writing, hasbeen supporting him so that he can achieve his dream.

#### Movie Information

Blinded by the Light is a comedy-drama film directed byGurinderChadha. In addition, it is based on a true story

#### Plot

Javed is a young man who lives with his family in Luton, England, and who has several problems when he begins his high school stage.

It all started when he met Roops, a fan of "The Boos", as they called Bruce Springsteen. Roops was the one who gave him some music tapes with songs by Bruce, which caused Javed to know his true identity. However, not everything was a problem with the music, because Javed was also passionate about writing, and was always looking for a way to dedicate himself to it (writing poems, working on the school newspaper...).

The main problem that Javed had is that he did not know how to deal with his father to explain what his dreams were, and this caused the problem to increase.

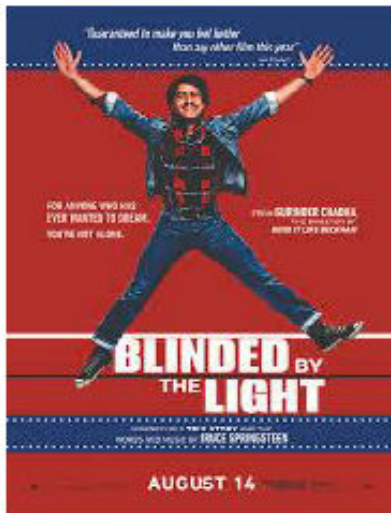
On the other hand, it should also be noted that in Lutonthere was great hatred towards Pakistanis, and that also made coexistence and family relationships very difficult, however, this was not a problem for Javed, who ended up fulfilling his dream of going to college in the US.

When Javed comes back, it was thanks to Eliza (the girl he fell in love with), that his parents were there when Javed gave a winning speech, which ended up focusing on the importance of family, based on the song "blinded by the light"

At the end of the film, Javed and his father drive together to the university listening to Bruce Springsteen

#### Opinion

I think the film deals with an interesting theme, which in this case is equality and respect above all else. It's okay to want to fulfill our dreams, and we have to have ambitions, but we can't hurt other people in order to achieve this goal, and I think this is a bit of what the film wants to convey to us. Therefore, I would recommend it, because it is entertaining to watch, and also the music is really good.



By:Lucia Ospina Navajas

## **Blinded by the light**

Blinded by the light is a combination of comedy and drama, it is based on the memoir *"Greetings from Bury Park"* written by journalist/broadcaster Sarfraz Manzoor who narrates his adventures as a British Muslim boy in 1980's Luton his hometown and the impact Bruce Springsteen's music and lyrics had on him.

He then meets Gurinder in a Springsteen's concert where they connected by their shared passion for the artist. They then produced and developed this movie, they then met him at the London premiere for his documentary *"The Promise "*. The director of this film is Gurinder Ghadha. She is a 62 year old British director with Indian background.

It has a vast variety of well known actors and actresses, the main character of the film **Javed** is **Viveik Kalra** he is a 24 year old English



## *Blinded by the Light*

In "Blinded by the Light," Javed, a Pakistani British teenager living in a London suburb called Luton in 1987, discovers the music of Bruce Springsteen thanks to his future friend Roops, and this music makes him reconsider all his future plans, to start thinking different about his writings and love himself as he is. The lyrics swirling around him, in his soul, he's more than just a born-again Bruce fan. Bruce's music becomes his obsession and identity, his runaway American dream that later came

true after he won in a competition thanks to her teacher Ms Clay that generally inspired him to continue writing and believe in himself. He just about syncs his heartbeat to that sound and it gives him the courage to do things he wouldn't have dared otherwise: like, for instance, asking Eliza, a girl in his literature class, out on a date and later even kiss her.

In my opinion its a very good film to point out that all of us have the same rights to live in this world and nobody can take that away from us. At the same time the film shows that everything can come true, the only thing you need is to believe in yourself and fight for your dreams.



*Made by Pavel Izral'skiy*

## BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

Manuel Ospina

In “Blinded by the Light,” Javed (Viveik Kalra), a Pakistani British teenager living in a drab London suburb in 1987, discovers the music of Bruce Springsteen, and it jolts him alive. From the moment he straps on his Walkman headphones and drinks in the tightrope of ecstasy and despair that is “Dancing in the Dark” (“There’s something happening somewhere...”), the lyrics swirling around him on screen, he’s more than just a born-again Bruce fan. Bruce’s music becomes his fixation, his obsession and identity, his runaway American dream. He just about syncs his heartbeat to that sound (before long, he’s conversing in Bruce lyrics), and it gives him the courage to do things he wouldn’t have dared otherwise — like, for instance, asking Eliza (Nell Williams), a girl in his literature class, out on a date.

The date starts off sort of humdrum, and Javed gets ready to call it a night. But then he puts on those headphones, and it’s like he’s Clark Kent stepping into a phone booth. With “Prove It All Night” blasting in his ears, he approaches Eliza, reciting the lyrics out loud. The fact that he does this is funny, and the movie is aware of that; you’re completely invited to giggle. At the same time, when the song glides into its chorus, locking Javed and Eliza into a kiss, it’s a moment of pure pop opera.

For Javed, the catharsis of Bruce represents an escape from his domestic doldrums, but it’s about more than that. At school, he’s surrounded by kids who are sunk into the pale fashion-conscious irony of the late ’80s.

It’s also a bracing movie about growing up. Chadha colors in the late ’80s: the cults of Reagan and Thatcher, the rising unemployment in England, the National Front marches that, in hindsight, were the embryonic version of the anti-immigrant fervor that helped lead to Brexit. But she keeps us focused on how this no-hoper vibe is part of what Javed needs to escape.

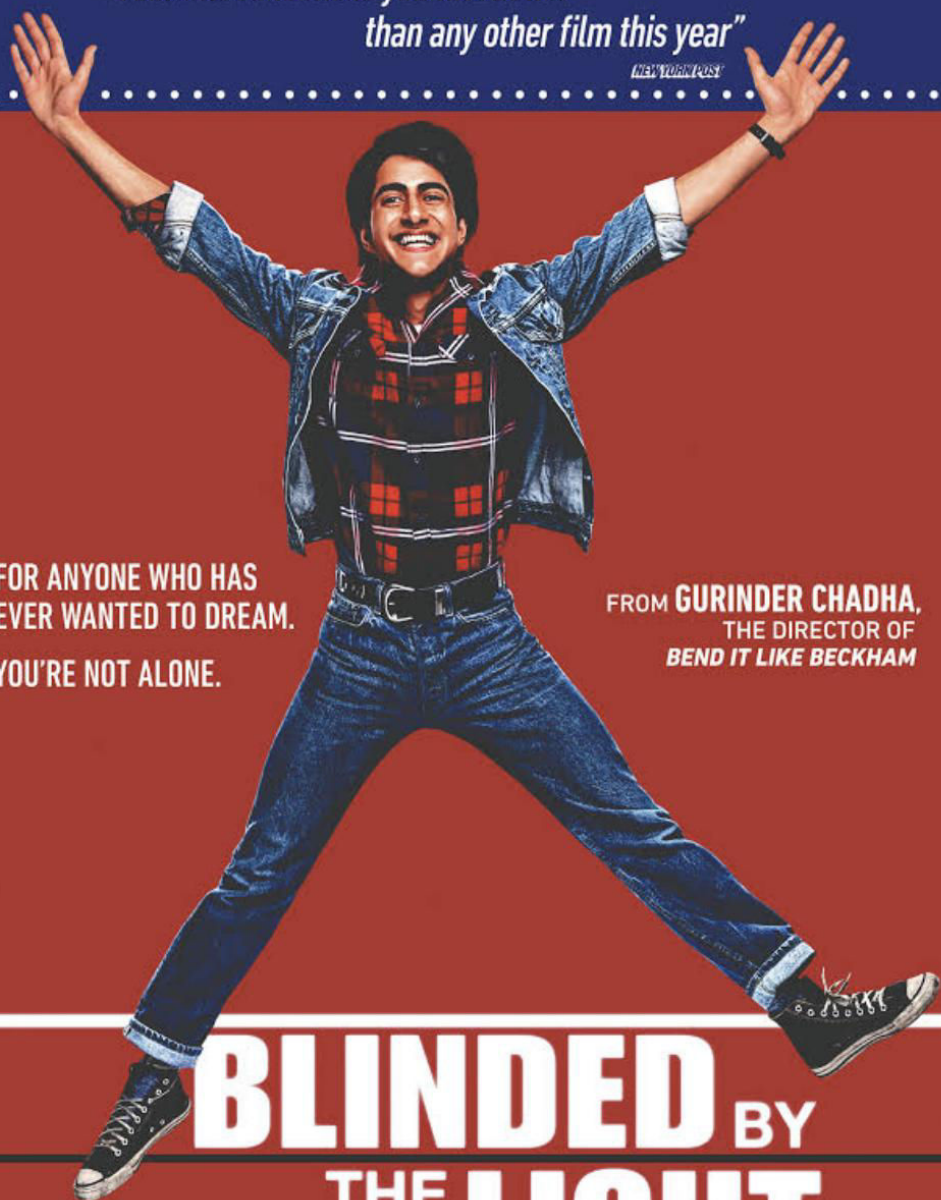


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NEW YORK POST

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS  
EVER WANTED TO DREAM.  
YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

FROM **GURINDER CHADHA**,  
THE DIRECTOR OF  
*BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM*



# BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

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**AUGUST 14**

PRODUCED BY GURINDER CHADHA