MOVIE REVIEW: NIGHTCRAWLER

Hare Today was recently given an opportunity to watch an advance screening of the feature film NIGHTCRAWLER, starring Jake Gyllenhaal. WARNING: This review contains some minor spoilers.

Dan Gilroy’s NIGHTCRAWLER is a humorous, yet disturbing tale about capitalism and the brutality of human nature. Jake Gyllenhaal plays Lou Bloom, a thief who smoothly and guiltlessly commits crimes across Los Angeles. After witnessing a freelance photographer sell footage of a car crash to a local news TV station, Lou pawns a stolen bike and uses the money to purchase his own police scanner and video camera. Soon, Lou is zooming around the city as a “nightcrawler” who tries to tape and sell footage of crimes to the local news. However, the darkness within Lou’s personality begins to manifest itself when he starts manipulating the crimes himself in order to obtain better footage. It’s not long before the viewer is thrust into the bizarre world of Lou’s sociopathy, which only gets worse as his stature and prestige as a nightcrawler increases.

The film fluctuates between vignettes that illustrate Lou’s psychotic behavior and comedic dialogue, although even the most morbid scenes were tinged with humor (this writer recalls a scene in which Lou blackmails a female character into sleeping with him; strangely, the audience burst into laughter several times during this segment of the film). The duplicity of Lou’s characterization as both a violent and comedic figure is a testament to the quality of Gyllenhaal’s performance. In the beginning of the film, Lou comes off as a quirky introvert who tries to legitimize himself by pursuing a career in television news. Even after the truth about his depravity is revealed, Gyllenhaal maintains the same level of quirkiness and humor, making it difficult for the viewer to turn against the character. Throughout the film, this writer found himself hoping that Lou would be successful in his business.

Although the focus of the film is the character of Lou Bloom, NIGHTCRAWLER benefits from a number of laudable performances. Riz Ahmed plays Lou’s assistant Rick with just the right mixture of nerves and self-deprecation, while Rene Russo holds down the fort as the station editor who purchases Lou’s work. The film’s minimalist nature results in a lack of characters with much depth beyond these three, but this is not a drawback—in the same vein, although the great majority of the film is spent simply establishing Lou’s character, these scenes are interesting enough to keep the viewer in their seat. Overall, NIGHTCRAWLER is a fantastic psychological thriller that showcases good acting and great dialogue—a must see for those who aren’t faint of heart!
**CONCENTRATION PICK-UP LINES**

Sophomores will be deciding on their concentrations fairly soon. It's important to keep in mind that whatever department a sophomore chooses, the chance of finding love is always just around the corner (yes, even you Astrophysics). To prove our point, we've listed some icebreakers below for anyone looking to make that first move, specific to their concentration. Sophomores are welcome to try these out, and write back to us about how successful they were.

**CHEMISTRY**

Are you made of Copper and Tellurium? Because you are CuTe!

**PHYSICS**

Can I have your significant digits?
I'm really attracted to you. According to Newton's Law of gravitation, you're really attracted to me too.

**CS**

I must be using Apple Maps, because I keep getting lost in your eyes.
Is your name Google? Because you have everything I'm searching for.

**PHILOSOPHY**

Going out with you tonight is my categorical imperative.
You bring out the social animal in me.

**MATH**

I don't like my current girlfriend. Mind if I do a you-substitution?
I can figure out the square root of any number in less than 10 seconds. You don't believe me? Well, then, let's try it with your phone number.

**RELIGION**

Now I know why Solomon had 700 wives... Because he never met you.

**MUSIC**

You had me at cello.
I C Major potential in us getting together.

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**MYSTERY MOVIE QUOTE:**

“They took my grandfather. That’s why I really hate sharks.”

**LAST WEEK’S ANSWER:**

“...I don’t know why he saved my life. Maybe in those last moments he loved life more than he ever had before. Not just his life—anybody’s life; my life.”