End Stage 5 English student work sample – Grade C

Review of Rat Race

Rat Race encorporates humour, a great storyline and an amazing cast consisting of actors such as John Cleese, Cuba Gooding Jr and Whoopie Goldberg, just to name a few. This film was destined to be popular, even if, just for the excellent cast, but Rat Race exceeded also due to it's wonderful and exciting storyline. In the beggining you are introduced to these charachters, all very ordinary and all with many different careers and interests, but they all share one common interest, MONEY! This film is like a rollercoaster ride from the start to the finish, the audience experiencing the ups and downs which accompany their great journey, or should I say....Race!

A Las Vegas casino tycoon, played by John Cleese sends 6 people on the adventure of a lifetime, in a race across the desert destined for Silver City, New Mexico where $2million awaits them. Jerry Zucker(director and co-producer) does an excellent job at keeping the audience glued to their seat throughout the film, he also combines tasteful and comy humour without going overboard. Rat Race has received such wonderful reviews, Time Magazine's Richard Schickel quoted "It has conviction and divinely orchestrated lunacy", UPN-TV's Mark S. Allen quoted "Quite possibly the funniest movie ever!" it is obvious from these reviews that Rat Race is well worth seeing.

Personally I found Rat Race to be an excellent comedy with something waiting around every corner. It fulfilled my expectations with flying colours, it is evident that this film was a sucess due to not only the great cast, but also the amazing job done by the crew, particularly the directing by Jerry Zucker. The review of Rat Race written by a movie critic on the Interenational Movie Data Base website is one that I couldn't agree with more. The critic describes the movie with enough detail without giving away the whole storyline, he makes references to the directing and the crew which I strongly agree with, this review clearly represents and promotes Rat Race to be an outstanding movie.

Overall with its combination of desperate charachters played by brilliant actors, thrown head-long into a zany situation, this film could have been called ITS A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD RAT RACE! This is one truely hilarious joyride. It's always fun to see a kind pure comic escapism, that of which is evident in this film.

Grade Commentary

Cameron has demonstrated an adequate level of competence in composing a film review. The context of the film has been addressed and there is sound understanding of the narrative and characters but little interpretation of the film or analysis of cinematic features. The review is well structured with a sound introduction and conclusion. A personal judgement has been provided but Cameron relies too heavily on quotations from other reviews.

Cameron's response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at grade C standard at the end of Stage 5.