

Mark
HEAVEN

THE BEST FILMS OF THE DECADE:

the social network

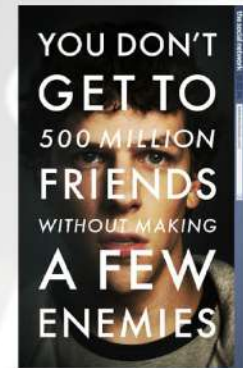
It's hard to imagine a world without Facebook. Ever since it originated in 2004 and slowly but surely integrated into our everyday lives (and in turn spawning countless variations to its likeness) the idea that modern life existed at all without Mark Zuckerberg's little undertaking seems almost unthinkable. While David Fincher's *The Social Network* (2010) highly critical--borderline scathing--account of Zuckerberg's controversial social media outlet may not be a factotum of facts, it surely makes for a brainy and provoking slice of entertainment.

Fincher is no stranger for providing an impressive display of powerful imagery. *The Social Network* is bathed in his signature Baroque lighting (exquisitely captured by cinematographer, and longtime Fincher collaborator, Jeff Cronenweth); a meditative locality for its ambitious young protagonist (Jesse Eisenberg) to wrestle with his own insecurities. This sublimely nightmarish landscapes of highly contrasted imaging and brooding atmosphere are heightened by Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross' Oscar-winning score: an eerie concoction of industrial, techno, and ambient synthesizers.

Fincher is only as good as his script, however, and that's where the real star of the film--in the guise of Aaron Sorkin's screenplay (also a statuette receiver)--shines brightest. Based off Ben Mezrich's book *The Accidental Billionaires: The Founding of Facebook*, the talented Sorkin serves up plenty of delicious dialogue and storytelling savvy, yet still manages to create a brisk enough pace to sustain us for two hours. Sharp, funny, and perceptive, Sorkin's writing is a playing field for even the most amateurish thespian to glow.

That's not suggesting Eisenberg and company aren't up to the task. Eisenberg's patented neuroticism and precarious idiosyncrasies are aptly suited for his portrayal of this Zuckerberg, Andrew Garfield's boyish charm amply embodies the naivete of his closest companion—who incidentally ends up suing him--and Justin Timberlake has never been better as Sean Parker, the ebullient entrepreneur (and digital music pioneer) who aids in catapulting Zuckerberg's little coding project into a pop-culture phenomenon. Armie Hammer is also fun in a dual role as the Winklevoss brothers: twin brothers and Harvard peers who accused Zuckerberg of stealing their idea.

The Social Network is a penetrating and ingeniously crafted drama about one of the twenty-first century's most significant innovations. It would be foolish to omit it from any of the best films of the 2010s.



THE SOCIAL NETWORK (2010)

D: David Fincher

C: Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield, Rooney Mara, Armie Hammer, Justin Timberlake, Max Minghelia, Brenda Song, Rashida Jones, John Getz.

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