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Mike HALL FILM PICKS

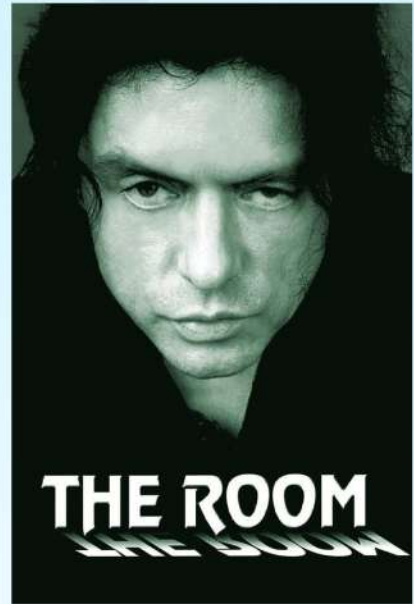


The Room (2003) [99m] * D: Tommy Wiseau. C: Tommy Wiseau, Juliette Danielle, Greg Sestero, Phillip Haldiman, Carolyn Minnott, Robyn Paris, Mike Holmes, Kyle Vogt, Greg Ellery.

A bizarre (putting it mildly) banker uncovers the infidelity of his true love which initiates a downward spiral into a pool of...well...your guess is as good as ours.

Textbook case for filmmaking ineptness that somehow managed to become a cult phenomenon. The exceedingly untalented actor, director, writer, and star (!) Wiseau (yes, we recognize the setting of your film is in San Francisco) peddled this piteous project as a “black comedy” as if to vindicate there being no better specification to categorize such drivel.

The film's creation is dramatized in James Franco's “The Disaster Artist,” (2017) which is, paradoxically, a good movie. **R DVD**



Hana-Bi (1997) [103m] ***1/2 D: Takeshi Kitano. C: “Beat” Takeshi, Kayoko Kishimoto, Ren Osugi, Susumu Terajima, Tetsu Watanabe, Hakuryu, Ken Ichi Yajima, Makoto Ashikawa, Yuko Daike.

With one of his partners in the ground, another crippled (Osugi, terrific), and wife dying of leukemia, an embittered police officer is lent money from the yakuza in hopes to appreciate some air of contentment with her last moments. Unfortunately, this minor misdeed surges into violent ramifications in true (and unconventional) Kitano fashion.

Kitano's signature exposition of moral decadence (replete with his sly smirk) is not for all tastes, but rewards are many for those willing to partake. One of his finest hours as star, director, writer, and editor.

The paintings sporadically entwined throughout the film are also his work.

Also known as **Fireworks** in countries outside of Japan.

R DVD



RATING GUIDE:
**** Excellent
*** Good
** Average
* Poor