Do you enjoy chewing a piece of gum after it has lost all of its flavour? Well then, the movie *Dunkirk* is perfect for you! *Dunkirk​* is a flavourless attempt​ at mixing a thriller and a war movie together.

       The movie, directed by Christopher Nolan, recreates the historical event of The Miracle of Dunkirk-Operation Dynamo-​from three different perspectives: land, sea, and air. ​Tommy (Fionn Whitehead) and Alex (Harry Styles), two British privates, and Gibson​ (Aneurin Barnard)​​​, a French soldier, all cross paths​ while trying to escape Dunkirk. Struggling against all odds, the three of them take the audience through an intense fight for survival both at land and at sea. A civilian sailor, Mr. Dawson (Mark Rylance), and his son, Peter (Tom Glynn-Carney), accompanied by their teenage hand, George (Barry Keoghan), respond to call for help​​​​​ from the Royal Navy to sail vessels from Great Britian to the beaches at Dunkirk to help the soldiers escape. Along the way, they encounter and help many people such as pilots who have crashed and soldiers involved in shipwrecks.

        While the movie successfully creates tension, it is also extremely repetitive and lots of scenes are too long. Many parts of the movie play off of the same ideas. While it was exciting the first time around, it becomes rather boring quite quickly. For example, when looking through the perspectives of Tommy, Alex, and Gibson, plenty of the scenes they appear in are during shipwrecks. They spend most of the movie escaping near death by drowning. While one could argue this shows the significance of the loss of soldiers and naval ships, it more successfully shows a loss of interest of the audience. After seeing it once, a concept is no longer as ​gripping​ to see again. Many of the scenes are drawn out for dramatic effect, but in multiple cases, it becomes tedious. This is shown in one of the opening scenes when ​Tommy and Gibson are carrying an injured soldier to a hospital ship. This scene is very long in an attempt to build suspense but conversely​ results in apathy. These are only a few examples of the movie's long and repetitive scenes.

        The director focuses solely on building suspense and using great cinematography but neglects creating a strong plot as a result. For instance, the movie does not have much dialogue. Large parts of the film are made to look very pleasing and accurate but fail to give the storyline enough purpose. If they had added more dialogue, the audience would have gotten to know the characters better, and therefore, would have had a stronger emotional connection to not only them but also Operation Dynamo itself. While the cinematography and tension were​ impressive, the lack of plot greatly takes away from the movie.

        The movie revolves greatly around the British's perspective at Dunkirk while almost entirely ignoring both the French and German perspectives. While French soldiers are shown at parts throughout the movie, the story is heavily focused on what the British were experiencing during the evacuation. Gibson was the only character that contributed to the French's involvement at Dunkirk, but that alone failed to capture the French's involvement​ as a whole. In addition, while it was clear that the Nazis were the ones attacking the Allies, they were never really shown but rather just implied. For example, the audience only sees Nazi planes. Even while under attack by Nazi soldiers and U-Boats, the audience can only see the British and the aftermath of the German's attacks.

        Overall, *Dunkirk* fails to live up to its full potential. What starts as a promising beginning quickly unravels into a bland entanglement of three different storylines.

​Have you ever been punched in the face? Regardless of your answer, be prepared to experience punches like none other before, in “Cinderella Man”. These “movie punches” will definitely knock you out, figuratively speaking of course, but the impact is just as real. This movie does an incredible job simulating the fights James J Braddock had with his opponents, through the use of thrilling excitement, wholesome feelings and endless action!

The movie "Cinderella Man," produced by Ron Howard, depicts the difficult economic times of the Great Depression during the 1930s. It was a time when the stock market crashed leaving many homeless and many more struggling to avoid bankruptcy. Just like many others during this time period, James J Braddock, a former boxer, tried his best to provide for his wife, Mae, and 3 children, Jay, Howard and Rosemarie. They lived in a modest apartment in New Jersey struggling to put food on the table. James, a loving father and husband, often went hungry so that his family could eat. Despite adversity, Braddock never let his family down. He did whatever it took to provide for them, working long hours as a day laborer at the docks. This eventually opened up a new door for James. A former boxing manager, Joe Gould, contacted James about an upcoming ​fight against a young, rising fighter. After a shocking upset-win, James went on to battle his way into a title spot against the greatest fighter at that time, Max Baer. ​Understandably, his wife Mae, feared for her husband as Max had been known to kill opponents in the ring. However, James’ thirst to rise from poverty in order to better provide for his family outweighed Mae’s pleas to withdraw from the fight. James went on to accept the challenge. How this fight unfolds is incredible to watch because it demonstrates what it means to fight with “heart”. It is clear that James is fighting for his family and this is what gives him the raw desire to win.

“Cinderella Man” has many great aspects to it stretching from the well-known cast, to the cinematography and sound. This movie is inspiring to watch especially because of the grit and perseverance that James shows for his family. He illustrated this when he passed his hat around  asking for donations to support his family so they could get the power back on. This would be incredibly humbling for a man to do and I could not imagine the embarrassment one would feel. James did not care about pride if it meant it was for the benefit of his family. He also showed that he was willing to take on any employment for the sake of his family by working at the docks. Since he had injured his right hand while boxing, he had to adapt and overcome by using his left hand to work. For me, this illustrates how determined he was for his family. I think that the message to “never give up on your goals”, is a pivotal one and they did a great job highlighting this in this movie. They also did a great job with the cinematography throughout this film. The various camera angles, lighting changes, and sound effects used added so much to the fight scenes. These scenes were a significant part in this movie and they were done with perfection. This is one of the main reasons why this movie was so successful. The different camera angles, such as moving closer to the fighter when it became more intense and backing out when there was some distance between the two fighters, really added to the suspense. They also had phenomenal lighting throughout the movie which definitely helped create the mood for the dramatic scenes. Dim lighting was used for scenes when they lived in the cramped apartment to demonstrate hardship and anguish. Sounds of grunting and groaning were used during the fight scenes which were also very effective. It had ongoing action and always held my interest. What really impressed me was how much emotion and feeling was projected throughout the movie. “Cinderella Man” expressed a deep message that you can combine emotions of gentleness and kindness with strong-will and determination and still succeed.

Cinderella Man, although I think it is one of the best movies that we have watched in class so far, is lacking in certain areas. The movie does focus on fighting scenes, which I personally found enjoyable and exciting, but some people may find it a little overdone. I feel they should have had more scenes outside of the ring, perhaps showing more of the family and the era of the Great Depression. Although I understand why James’ character was portrayed as a gentle and loving person, there were times that I felt it was exaggerated. They tried too hard to make James seem like a saint. This was difficult to relate to as a real character. I do see why his character had to be developed this way since this helps sway the audience over to his side. Max Baer, in the movie, was portrayed as such an evil guy; almost too much to the other extreme. Max was actually known for his sympathy towards the families of the opponents he had killed in the ring. He even forfeited some of his winnings to support those families.The two extremes in these characters also takes away from the authenticity of the story.

I would have to rate “Cinderella Man” as my favourite movie so far. I was intrigued with the plot and captivated by the fight scenes. ​I hope that similar movies are selected for class time with equally great cinematography and sound effects. I would rate this movie 9 out of 10 based on my personal enjoyment. However, if the purpose of watching this movie was to learn more about the Great Depression, then I would probably have to lower it to a 7 or 8. Overall, it is still high on my rating system because it inspired and motivated me to never give up. I will definitely watch it again.

If you enjoy a terrible love arc, poor action scenes, and an empty feeling as the credits roll. Watch the German foreign film Red Baron. Directed by Nikolai Müllerschön in ​2008, the ​​infamous World War one ace fighter pilot Manfred von Richthofen​ makes his way to highschool classrooms -- for some reason.

The history of the red baron is my favourite world war one topic. The thought of painting your plane red to scare your enemy is amazing, as I am sure it worked. The leading ace of world war one with 80 planes shot down before his unknowing demise. The best part of the red barons history, is snoopy fighting him on his red dog house -- which is more historically accurate than the movie Nikolai Müllerschön decided to create.

As cool as the history of the red baron is, his movie is quite the opposite. With a very high rating of 6.3, which it definitely does not deserve. The acting is inadequate​, story telling was terrible and most of all the love interest or whatever you would call that. I find it sad that a whole highschool classroom can agree to hate a movie more than anything else, even threatening to watch it again as a punishment.

The worst part is the scene transitions. going from a love scene in a tent, to flying the next day, fighting the enemy just does not flow. they introduced new characters just to kill them off 10 minutes later, making no one care or have any sort of lost feeling.

With a budget of 28 million and a gross income of just over $37,000, this movie sucks, I have not watched a worse movie. To be fair, it is a foreign movie with different story telling and delivery. At the same time, they had a big budget for the German garbage that it became. I wish I could enjoy this movie more as I come from full German decent, but this movie makes me wish I was everything but that.

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Dunkirk can only be compared to getting your teeth ripped out one by one by the same dentist who broke my grandfather's jaw. In the film *Dunkirk, directed* by Christopher Nolan, three dreadful stories are told from the air, land, and sea. Based on the true story of the 1940 Battle of Dunkirk, this thriller (if you can even call it that,) depicts the struggles of Tommy, the only one to survive a German attack at the start of the film, Peter and George- two characters that are a yin and yang of useful and useless, who assist soldiers by using a boat. Last and somehow least, is the unremarkable Farrier, a fighter pilot with great achievements but is weakened by shotty camera angles and countless cuts back and forth. In good conscience, this film cannot be given a rating any higher than a 7.4/29.

Ultimately, Tommy is a forgettable character with nothing to redeem himself with. Seemingly cursed to watch every boat around him sink into the cold icy depths of the water, he just can't catch a break. Unfortunately, the boats get old fast, and after you watch a boat sink in the same fashion for the third time, you really can't find it in you to care. Teamed up with Alex, portrayed by Harry Styles, they struggle to find safety and, in the end, do nothing to add substance to the film. Honestly, Harry should stick to the one thing he’s good at, which is spitting on other actors.

Furthermore, Peter is an extremely helpful young man who takes pity on George, a useless teenager who wants to help out by doing diddly-squat! Looking back, the entire boat section of the movie has nothing but awkward and forced dialogue. I almost leapt out of my seat with joy when they finally got rid of George. Unfortunately, his death scene went on for far too long, with the film scrambling to get you to feel sympathy for this random guy you have seen for less than an hour. Somehow labeled a hero, George does nothing but get in the way and slow Peter down. How they feature George, but not Peter on the newspaper is beyond me.

By the time the movie is over, you would be suffering from whiplash. Groaning whenever the film showed planes, you would have to prepare for yet another onslaught of camera cuts and shotty angles. With cameras showing the view from the wing of the plane, I wished for nothing more than for them to dive into the ocean so it could finally be over. There is no meaning behind this angle, and just yet another nuisance. Farrier was the only character that kept me from leaving and never looking back. A true hero amongst yet another flop of a movie.

Nevertheless, Dunkirk is a film that can only be described as three stories that did not need to be told through film. Moreover, the camera angles were awkward, and the cuts were countless. Throughout this film I felt nothing but impatience as I waited for it to finally end. Action, adventure, and more can all be yours if you do yourself a favour and watch any other movie.  ​​

Dunkirk amassed over $527 million in worldwide box offices, becoming the highest grossing WW2 film to date, a feat we can thank to the harry styles fans dying to see his acting debut. Christopher Nolan purposefully scattered concise bits of dialogue throughout the scenes rather than having one conscious script; building tension through clock ticks and assertive music. The movie takes on three sperate narratives: the mole, sea, and air to show the overall effort of the Dunkirk evacuation.

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**The Mole: one week**

We open the film to a troop of soldiers scavenging the streets of an empty town, their entrance is soon met with German gunfire as each man is shot down one by one conveniently missing only one man, the protagonist of the film, Tommy. Tommy jumps over French lines where he then is greeted with thousands of men lined along the beaches of Dunkirk. As he walks through the sands, he stumbles upon Gibson a French soldier who is disguised as British wearing a deceased man's uniform. An opportunity arises as they usher the deceased man, in which Gibson stole the uniform from, to skip the endless line of men. The two fail to board the ship and spontaneously decide to hide within the mole. It is while hiding in the dock that we meet Alex, among a few other characters. The group sneakingly makes their way onto a ship which sinks leaving us with only Tommy, Gibson, and Alex remaining. After finding their way back to the shore the three, among a few unestablished characters, hide inside an abandoned fishing boat that later is used as target practice by German soldiers leading to the death of Gibson.

**The Sea: one day**

As requested by the Royal Navy, Mr. Dawson, accompanied by his son Peter, prepare their family’s fishing boat for the navy’s use but promptly decides it is a task they wish to carry out. Peter's friend George suddenly decides to join the two as they make their way to Dunkirk. Along the way the group come across a sunken vessel and a shell-shocked British soldier who they rescue. When said soldier learns the group are making their way towards the conflict, the man becomes erratic and somehow cause George to suffer a head injury and eventually passes away.

**The Air: one hour**

We then meet the three main pilots as they fly above Dunkirk and over the ocean. The squadron leader of the three pilots gets shot down early in the film leaving the two pilots to fend for themselves. As the dog fights continue, we learn that one of the pilots has a broken fuel gauge and must mentally keep track of it.

From this point, all three plotlines begin to overlap and merge. Tommy and Alex’s ship sinks leaving the men to swim through an oil spill that then catches on fire just as the duo make their way onto Mr. Dawsons boat. The pilot, as he runs out of fuel, lands on a beach near Dunkirk where he is then captured by who we can assume to be German soldiers. Tommy and Alex make their way onto a train where they are met with civilians applauding them for escaping; while this is all happening tommy reads the newspaper from that day which provides further context to the evacuation and confirms that the mission was a success saving around 400 000 men.

Beyond just the summary smaller details contributed to different critiques that could be made about the film. The biggest issue the public had with this film was how the characters were written, many people, myself included, felt the writing gave you no reason to care. Characters like George and Alex were random and unnecessary, it felt as though George's death was purely for shock factor and the only reason Alex made it to the end was for the harry styles cameo. I found it such a waste as the characters had so much potential, if only each story was expanded deeper. The film could have used the merging of plotlines to build community between characters from land, sea, and sky. Christopher Nolan purposefully strayed away from politics within the film to avoid it being “bogged down,” to me this makes no sense as the Dunkirk evacuation and the war itself are both political endeavors. Putting political influences within the dialogue would have better highlighted the feelings the soldiers and civilians had about the circumstances while evacuating Dunkirk.

The film Dunkirk does director Christopher Nolan no justice and shows he is incapable of adapting stylistically between films. Nolan’s intention with the film was to replace storytelling through dialogue with cinematography and quiet scenes. Despite my usual love for this style of film I felt that paired with the use of IMAX cameras, drones, and cameras mounted to planes it did not fit the style they were attempting to execute. The filter used over the extending part of the film was originally intended to show if locations were safe or unsafe but felt as though the production team was trying to compensate for the visual differences between cameras which overall contradicted the artistic style of the movie. In some scenes, like when Tommy and the other soldiers hid in the abandoned fishing vessel, we see the use of handheld cameras portraying how claustrophobic the men felt, a shot that perfectly fit the scene. This clip, showing what the movie could have looked like if Nolan skipped out on the large-scale IMAX cameras. Though the wide shots were crucial in scenes of soldiers on the beach, it felt unfitting for scenes that were not purely landscapes. Other instances where technique came in the way of plot was Nolan's avoidance of CGI. Because of this, convoys of ships that, realistically, would have been made up of upwards of a thousands civilians were instead shown as barely a couple hundred, making what was historically a dramatic sight seem rather unsubstantial. Personally, the part of the film that overrides any good or bad cinematography shown was the random aspect ratio switches each time the scene was shot from IMAX to a Panavision camera. Rather than simply changing the screen dynamics or using cameras made to fit non-IMAX screens, cinematographer Hoyte van Hoytema, left the movie as it was completely screwing with the consciousness. This decision is bizarre and nonsensical for a film that relied on visuals so heavily to tell the story.

If action and dramatic plot are what you want from a war film this is not the one for you. In not wanting to bog down the plot with politics Nolan conveniently prevents the characters from having any passion for the cause. Overall, I found Dunkirk a good but underwhelming film that had confusing production choices.