

A Quiz Show: A Perfect Movie

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“Quiz Show” is the perfect movie made by a Hollywood Company. The story, written by Paus Attansio about scandals of 1958 NBC Television Show and rated PG-13, would also be a good example of the successful art movie in the history. According to magazines, this movie is “One of the Year’s 10 Best”. In this regard, the Director of this movie, Robert Redford, is very successful at depicting the society of NBC Television Show Scandal in a cinematic way. We have to admire his skill for this movie in which he is successful to show the good and evil side of the Television business to the public. It is an exciting look behind the scenes at the thrills and high stakes competition, full of conflict. Based on various plot structures, this movie is very successful at making a good social commentary to understand the television show business in the society.

Characterization in this movie is unique because in this movie most of the events are connected to the television screen. So, the introduction of the main character comes through television screen. Giving one character of John as investigator from Special Committee of

House of Representative, the director tries to make a good statement in his movie. He used this character to uncover the deception and corruption beneath the magnificent issue of Quiz Shows. The main character, Mark Van Doren (Paul Scofield), son of Charles (Ralf Fiennes), is looks very smart coming from Columbia University, and a renowned academic family. After some minutes he comes to be the important and regular character in this movie. Character of Enright and sponsor Geritol is the symbol of that society which makes money making people blind. In the fact, popular, young, and talented professor Van Doren was propositioned by producer Enright (David Paymer) to defraud the American public getting all the answer in advance and making a face acting in the live telecast of the television show. However, for the first half of the movie nobody can guess that the answer had been given ahead of time, which makes the story more interesting and suspenseful.

On the other side, the exposition of this movie is entirely concerned about the present time society and specific television mania as an allusion. At that

time, the television was a very effective source of the audio-visual media, and the Quiz Show was the hottest program for one of the popular television company name NBC. This movie also presents an enjoyable and real recreation of '50s TV mania, where we can get full of attractive game show, its hosts and greedy producers who looks rather innocent. It is an effective insight into the American psyche to give good lesson on this matter. This movie, as a small reference part of whole movie, indicates the character of father, who represented an incorruptible side of the American national tradition, and son, who betrayed his legacy, families and profession to become the symbol of America's descent into cynicism (Hollywood Pictures, 1980).

Conflict between two sides of the movie, good and evil, is the general thing to create one successful movie. However, in this movie, the cinematic way of conflict presentation is not quite easy. In a simple story, conflict comes slowly, which is very different than any other action movie. Here, the show-producer has decided that Herbie's popularity has peaked and that they can sale more goods with a new champion.

Charles Van Doren is chosen to make a graceful and well-tailored movie for this era. Presentation of nasty warfare, being discussed behind closed doors by Enright and sponsor Geritol, is also considered to be the focal point of the movie to see the conflict between the values and norms of that present society. In a word, the conflict between Geritol (NBC) and Herbie is the main point of this movie.

As the rising action begins, the suspense comes to be very interesting and curious. As a representatives of that society, Van Doren who flies on the borrowed winds makes this situation so severe and critical. Whether it is the intellectual competition between Stempel and Van Doren, or the frightening excitement of audiences faced to society's sight of personality and money, it is understood that this movie clarifies the steady erosion of American Values. This is also the important situation where Stempel and Van Doren takes the different and opposite way to meet their own achievement.

The climax of this movie becomes so intense when this show becomes too successful. And the present magazines like TIME and newspapers make such a

big issue about this show. The main thing is when the sponsor company wants to change the new participant Mark Van Doren (Paul Scofield), instead of the regular champion Herbie Stempel (John Turturro) to give the public a new face, to make more colorful to the show, it becomes the climax.

As soon as the regular champion, Herbie, disagrees with this matter, the situation takes really big issue, which allows the hidden truth to come in front of the viewer. The result of the dark side of the nation nurtured on individualism and trained to chase the smell of power, money and fame is typically presented here. The speech made by Van Doren to the Special Committee of the House of Representative to the US government is the main result of that dark side of the society. This speech of Van Doren is not only the result of his work, it is also a outstanding lesson for entire greedy society of this earth. Here we can see a great social commentary as a successful narrative technique.

Relations between the overall story and the social commentary is very suitable and fully successful to depict that society in a cinematic way. In a word, this movie is very successful to show what the

difference between entertainment and public utility is and the victim of deception from Television Company in that society. This is certainly a fact that the television shows like Quiz Show are not a public utility rather it is entertainment. Nobody is hurt here and nobody is criminal to make this kinds of issue bigger and bigger as referring scandal. However, some rules and regulations in this scope are advised through the social commentary of this movie. We can say the main social commentary and the objective of this movie is to give the good definition and difference between entertainment, basic public utility and basic public needs to the society. It also indicates that the television show is one of the showing business which gives the public what they want.

In conclusion, considering all the structures, presentation style and a unique social commentary, the Quiz Show is a perfect movie. It is very useful to the present society where the television show business is increasing day by day in a new and newer style. Understanding its social commentary, television viewers will be able to understand the backside of the

curtain and reality of the television show
to the public.