

TITANIC

The ship may sink but the film does not!

BY MATTHEW TAYLOR

Titanic is more than a film about a disaster. It is also a love story centred around Rose and Jack, played by Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio.

The film begins with an old, fragile Rose who is watching Television story about a team retrieving artefacts from the Titanic while doing some pottery and, she sees a drawing, which we later find out is of her, [interestingly this prop was drawn by James Cameron]. This drawing however is not what the team are looking for. The Heart of the Ocean Diamond Necklace is what they look for; This was Rose', which she describes as an "old heavy thing" that she didn't like. The framing narrative is set up here, leading to Rose telling her story. Young Rose is a first-class passenger whereas Jack is third class and traveling in steerage.

From the first ten minutes of the film, I can see that there is a vast wealth divide from Rose being in first class on the ship meanwhile Jack is in third class on the ship and back in 1912 they were separated on the ship and had their dedicated areas where they could go. This would be a theme throughout the



film with the wealthy people's lives prioritised.

As Titanic leaves Southampton port you see the sheer size of Titanic as they have a fishing boat for comparison for the size and we also start to see some of Titanic interiors. In first class we see Rose's cabin and in third class we see Jack walking down the corridor to his cabin which he must share with three other passengers but on

Titanic this was quite nice compared to other ships of the time.

Titanic got the name "unsinkable" because White Star Line implemented several safety features such as watertight bulkhead, automatic watertight doors that close when they detect water raising the ballast up. It would also raise an alarm at the bridge of the ship. Did you know after Titanic sank with the White Star Line implemented



more safety features on their other Olympic class liners such as electric davits, more lifeboats, making the watertight bulkhead higher within the ship so that it doesn't spill into the other compartments and causing the same fatal flaw what it did on the Titanic.

The first time Rose meets Jack is when she is feeling overwhelmed at dinner, and she runs to the back of the ship and climbs over the safety railing and gets ready to jump off them but Jack spots her and offers to help her and he does. He pulls her back over the railing and saves her from the mighty Atlantic Ocean which would be freezing cold at that time of year considering that there were icebergs.

Them falling in love was magical because they weren't supposed to meet but because Rose was feeling overwhelmed and ran to the back of the boat, they met and they spent the rest of the voyage together to the very end.

The iceberg hits and the film changes from a romance to action and survival film in a matter of minutes of The Titanic hitting it the berg. As the music changes from being all calm to suspenseful and more dramatic music makes you

want to watch more as with out the music the film would be quite boring.

James Cameron dived down to the Titanic many times, some people say he spent more time on the Titanic than the actual passengers did in 1912. "After the ship strikes the iceberg James Cameron says that the passengers pass through all stages of death, fear, denial, anger, depression and acceptance" James Cameron says in the making of titanic book. (Marsh and Kirkland, 1998). He got most of the shots of the Titanic from the bow of the ship and the crews' quarters on the ship. After he filmed Titanic, he helped film the Ghost of the Abyss for Disney. He later went on to film a documentary for National Geographic about the Titanic and on how they created the shot for the film.

CGI was used frequently with computer generated passengers in some scenes, especially when Titanic was setting sail. It was also used when the Titanic was sinking when the passengers were jumping off the ship. Also, they only built the set on side, so they had to reverse the image to get the other side of the ship. This also meant the actors had to wear clothing with backwards

lettering for White Star Line, so it was the right way in the final film.

They also had the original blueprints of the titanic from the original ship builders Harland and Wolf in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to get the ship's look as close to the original as possible.

The film was made in 1997 by James Cameron and it was re-released in 2012 exactly 100 years after the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

It was released on Blu-ray and in 3D and it was in cinemas again for a while due to its popularity.

Overall, I would recommend watching Titanic as it was very well made for a film made in 1997 and it hasn't really aged that much but I think if it was made again today, I think that they would film it in 4k or even 8k with Dolby surround sound to make it even more immersive then it already is.

I would give Titanic four out of five stars.



References

Marsh, E. and Kirkland, D., 1998. James Cameron's Titanic. London: Boxtree.