Just saw "Deepwater Horizon". This big screen disaster biopic is directed by Peter Berg("Lone Survivor", "Friday Night Lights"). The film stars a highly talented cast including Mark Whalberg, Kurt Russell, John Malkovich, Dylan O'Brien, Gina Rodriguez and Kate Hudson.

This film chronicles the events leading up to the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico, the workers fight for survival and what eventually became known as the worst oil spill in history.

I was personally really looking forward to this movie. Back in high school I actually researched this event for a pretty lengthy project. I remember reading about how the workers had such little time to react and how exactly this disaster could have been avoided. So I felt strangely obligated to see this film having all this knowledge of the actual event. So what did I think of "Deepwater Horizon"?

I think this film NEEDS to be seen. Preferably on the big screen to really feel the impact of it all. It is a extremely thoughtful and well made movie. Every scene in the film felt like it was important in some way or another. Nothing felt like it was unnecessary or out of place. I really appreciated that aspect. Each scene successfully built upon the last and had a reason for being there. No filler whatsoever. That was so refreshing to see.

How's the acting? It's above average and the film does a good job of creating characters that the audience can pull for when everything goes up in smoke.
Whalberg turns in a very heroic and selfless performance as a man just fighting to see his family again. Russell delivers a relatable and courageous performance as the main guy responsible for everyone's lives on this oil rig. Malkovich is perfectly selfish as one of the lead executives for bp (British Petroleum). Rodriguez gives a compelling performance as the woman trying her best to contain a situation that proves increasingly more difficult. Finally O'Brien gives a very eye opening performance as a kid trying to save as many lives as possible before his own.

How about the cinematography? It's incredible. Whether you're seeing the rig from afar or have just jumped off to escape it's fiery grasp, this film puts you in the driver's seat.

What about the action sequences? They're very effective. They're visceral, in your face and incredibly intense. From the moment the film picked up I barely had any time to catch my breath. The film piles on explosion after explosion and it doesn't slow down. At times when there was fire on screen my face actually grew hot from all the adrenaline. That's effective storytelling right there. Even when the film showcased the inner workings of the well it still managed to ramp up the tension until everything boiled over. Quite literally I might add.

Before seeing the film, I read that the crew actually built a life-size replica of the oil rig from the ground up. That's some serious dedication to perfecting your craft and it definitely shows in the film. The choice of practical effects over CGI was also another key factor that in my opinion paid off in the end. It gave us a much more realistic experience.

In conclusion, "Deepwater Horizon" is a extremely powerful film about real life heroes and what people are capable of in the face of impossible odds. It was shocking, gritty and deeply moving. I was an emotional wreck when the credits started rolling. This is easily one of the best films of the year. I urge you to see the film. It's worth your time and money. I'm going to give "Deepwater Horizon" 5/5 stars. I look forward to what Peter Berg has to offer with "Patriots Day" in January.