

Just saw "Searching". This modern day technology based thriller is directed by Aneesh Chaganty(This is his directorial debut). The film stars John Cho, Debra Messing, Sara Sohn, Michelle La and Joseph Lee.

Well would ya look at that?! Another film led by a mostly Asian cast that I wasn't expecting at all to see in theaters. To be fair, I never really wanted to see "Crazy Rich Asians" in the first place. This film i wanted to see from the get-go but not necessarily in theaters. See the difference? Well in any case I'm super glad I got to see this on the big screen. I'm just going to get it out of the way now. This film is EXCELLENT.

This review will be considerably shorter than usual given the film's more limited categories to discuss. For starters, the performances are all uniformly great. Cho adds an amazing amount of restraint to our protagonist "David" every time he's onscreen. I could tell that at times he was just about ready to break down and give up, but he never did. This is easily the best performance I've seen from him. Not to be outshined is Messing's "Detective Vick" who added plenty of emotional and narrative weight when she was interacting with Cho.

It'd be a shame to not mention Sohn's portrayal of "David's" loving wife "Pam". While her screen time is limited, she left one hell of a lasting impression on me. The last standout performance for me was that of La's "Margot". Finding out more and more about her character was both fascinating and heart-wrenching. After all she is the focus of the movie and thankfully she carries the whole thing with ease. Those are who stood out to me in the film.

Before we conclude, I want to briefly touch on the musical score. Torin Borrowdale has created a memorable score and it's not even that complex. It's actually quite effective with it's simplicity. Depending on the scene, the music would either make me feel shocked, emotional or seriously on edge. Honestly I thought this was a surprisingly brilliant film score.

In conclusion, I thought this film was RIVETING. It works on an realistic level, technical level and most importantly a emotional level. It's a roller coaster ride with plenty of twists and turns to keep you invested and interested throughout. At a little under 1 hour and 45 minutes, this thing moves at a breakneck speed and hardly ever slows down. GO SEE IT. I'm going to give "Searching" 4.5/5.