# Barry Lyndon could be the greatest historical film ever made

by Terry Dupuis Stanley Kubrick is one of the most controversial and unpredictable filmmakers of our time. He is probably the most painstaking craftsman the cinema has ever seen Naturally his output has been small, since he spreds several years on film project. In 20 she has directed only - 7 movies. But all of them have aroused considerable controvery at the time of their release and seem to withstand the

test of time, gaining in stature on repeated Paths of Glory (1957) is one of the finest indictments of war ever produced. Spartacus (1960) holds up as one of the most intelligent of all the movies. the big screen spectacles. Lolita (1962), a rather strange comedy, seemed to me to be something of a misfire on Kubrick's part, but it too has its defenders. But Kubrick's next

project, Dr. Strangelove (1964) was a biting satirical comedy on the nuclear age and was one of the definitive films of the 1960's: Four years later came 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968), arguably the greatest of all science-

of the 70's. Now the unpredictable and brilliant Kubrick has turned his camera from the futuristic setting of his last three films to focus upon the 18th Century for his latest project Barry, Lyndon, which is now playing at the Odeon Theatre in Midland. Barry Lyndon. based on a novel by 19th Century writer William Thackeray, is a three hour historical epic starring Ryan O'Neal in the title role. Long awaited as a motion picture event, it has succeeded in stirring up as much controversy

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fiction movies. Kubrick

followed this up with A Clockwork Orange (1971).

resulting in one of the

most controversial films

critical detractors, but I latest film to be a milestone and a rich and

achievement to date, it is also the best historical film ever made and one of the major artistic triumphs in the history of

seen a movie which so completely and vividly recreates a previous century. Barry Lyndon carries us back totally to the 18th Century, in recounting the fortunes of an Irish rogue and gambler who cheats and schemes his way into the upper English class.



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among the critics as Kubrick's exquisite anything else Kubrick has photographic style is ever done. Critics have remarkable and deserbeen sharply divided as to vedly won an Academy the film's merits. Barry Awrd. To take just one Lyndon ha its share of example of Kubrick's innovations for this film: count myself among its Barry Lyndon takes place admirers, along with in an age in which the Clyde Gilmour, William main source of indoor K. Everson, Clive Denton lighting was candles. So and many other critics for his film Kubrick who consider Kubrick's developed a special lens which would enable him masterpiece, a movie to photograph scenes using only the candlelight rewarding viewing ex- available in the room This has always been In my opinion Barry impossible in movies of Lyndon is not only the past, where artificial Kubrick's greatest lighting has always been necessary and has often made a lot of historical

films seem phony. The costumes and sets in Barry Lyndon also won Academy Awards and Never before have I they help to contribute greatly to the authenticity of the atmosphere which

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music in Barry Lyndon. Music usually is an important aspect of any Kubrick film and his latest is no exception. The all authentic 18th Cendel, Schubert and Mozart to traditional melodies formance nightly. and military marches of the period. To match its splendour, Barry Lyndon has one of the most beautiful soundtracks ever. Not surprisingly the movie won its' fourth Academy Award for its striking musical adap-

As William K. Everson, the noted film critic and historian, commented in the February edition of "Films in Review"

Kubrick creates in his "Barry Lyndon is a work the movie-going public, I "artistic" or whatever. film. Special mention of consumate craftshould also be made of the smanship, and one with a notably civilized stance. ingredients rare in

movies today." Barry Lyndon opens tonight at the Oden music in Barry Lyndon is Theatre in Midland, where it is scheduled to run for one week. Due to classical works of Han- the film's length, there will be only one per-

Footnote: Considering visual and photographic the wide variety of response with which Barry Lyndon has been met by both critics and

would be extremely in- Or you can write a miniterested in getting the review of up to 100 words. the Georgian Bay area who have seen Kubrick's what you thought of the latest film. So if any acting photography plot, readers who see the etc. If I receive enough movie wish to express their opinion of it, they can write to me c o The Midland Times, or send me their letters directly to Box 915, Penetang. You can simply wirte one word which summarizes your opinion of the film Barry Lyndon, e.g.

"brilliant", "boring"

"beautiful", "crummy"

didn't like about the film,

responses, I'll print the three evenings at the Pen most interesting readers' Theatre: The Bad News write-ups- in a future Bears and Won Ton Ton.

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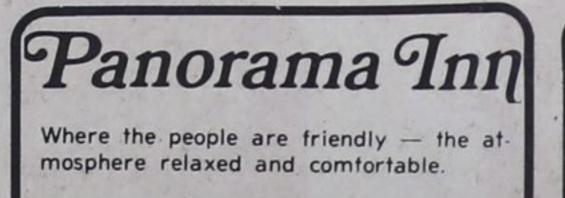
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