

Movie Review by Robert

## **Atlas Shrugged: Part 1**

*Atlas Shrugged: Part 1* is a low budget adaptation of the book *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand. It is supposed to be the first of three, splitting the over a thousand page book, to be able to do it a bit of justice. The movie running at 97 minutes stars such b-list actors as Taylor Schilling (Dany Taggart) and Grant Bowler (Henry Rearden).

For those that have not read the book, Dany owns and is vice-president of her family rail company, Taggart Transcontinental, alongside her brother who is the president. In this world (which in the film is set in 2016) the US enters a depression and not many companies survive. After being dealt another blow by losing one of the rail line's main customer, Ellis Wyatt (played by Graham Beckel) and losing money in Mexican operations, Dany must find a way to repair her line going to Colorado to bring the company back to profits. She seeks out the help of Henry Rearden who has invented an alloy (Rearden Steel) that is lighter, but much stronger than steel and seems to be one of the only productive people left in America. Together they set out to build an innovative rail line, despite of the overregulating bureaucrats and the disappearance of ambitious and hardworking people. This part ends when Dany loses one of her very important business partners.

Despite the movie's limited release all the way back on April 15<sup>th</sup>, I was not able to obtain a copy or go see this movie, legally or illegally, for the past six months, so when I found out that it would finally come to Canada starting in Toronto on October 28<sup>th</sup> my curiosity got the best of me and I had to go see it on its first screening day here. I wasn't expecting too much from this low \$10 million dollar budget film, but I was actually quite surprised with the quality of the acting. Taylor Schilling, Grant Bowler, Michael Lerner (Wesley Mouch) and Patrick Fischler (Paul Larkin) played quite flawlessly and really fit in their roles. The only role that I thought could have used a different actor was the role of Dany's brother, James Taggart played by Matthew Marsden. Most of the issues on the negative side I have, stemmed from the fact that at 97 minutes the movie was short, so many plot lines seemed rushed and did not give enough time for true character development. I also thought, with this short screening time, that some of the scenes were unnecessarily extended and did not really give any backing to the storyline. This was coupled with the fact, that as a true movie soundtrack enthusiast, I found much of the music to be way over the top and made these extended scenes almost unbearable and annoying. Despite some of my criticism, I am going to assume that most people barely notice soundtracks and say that as a low budget, this movie was quite amazing and even comparing to some of the movies I have recently watched I must say it does quite well and I have to rate it at above average. I recommend any Atlas Shrugged fan to watch it, because they will most likely enjoy it. I am not too sure about those that have not read the book, so if you get a chance to see the movie and haven't read the book I will gladly read your opinion if you e-mail it to me at [rob.ciszek@gmail.com](mailto:rob.ciszek@gmail.com). Personally I am certainly glad I watched and paid for it, because not only did I enjoy watching a well-acted movie without a-list actors but it is also always nice to stick it up to Hollywood and fund movies they would like to see dead. For those of you outside of North America, the DVD should be coming out sometime in November, so you should be able to rev up your torrent clients then.

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