

Review Cloud Atlas

This is one of the few movies that deals with reincarnation lines all through the times. You see different interweaving incarnations of persons, who each more or less have a theme, which each time they approach in a different way. It starts in 1848, and ends somewhere in the 24th century on another planet.

This film again is a hit from the into sisters transformed brothers Machovski, who were edge on before, like in the trilogy 'The Matrix', and 'V for Vendetta', both grown out into cult films.

One motto for instance is 'the strong prey on the weak, the weak become meat'. It is Tom Hanks who plays this, first as a ship doctor who tries to kill somebody for his possessions, in which he does not succeed, next a writer that throws his critic from a skyscraper in order to sell, and who after more rambling around ultimately finds the force to conquer himself and therewith also the stronger ones.

The many persons in their different lives demand a lot of improvisational talents from the actors, and this they do show. There are many known names amongst them, and it will have been a challenge to play I this movie. They do have fun, and despite the often heavy themes they go through, there is a lot of humor all through the different scenes. It surely is no dry theoretical piece. In the future imagery, in 'New Seoul' in de 22nd century, is a lot of SF material well pictured. The mood there of a cloned waitress who finally turns into a hero for the liberation movement and who shows where human dignity is really at, namely that we are closely connected to many humans and can only exist by carrying along the other person with respect within us. Some hundreds of years after this she is being venerated like a goddess.

And besides this there is the culmination in de symphony Cloud Atlas, composed by an outcast homosexual youngster who had imposed himself as a helper with an elder famous but ill composer. The different past lives all weave towards this and other highlights. Whereupon the composer kills himself. And much later becomes a freedom fighter who defies and challenges death.

It is a beautiful compilation of subsequent lives, about which you can meditate for a long time about the sense and lines of those lives, and therewith of your own life. A must see, even though it is from 2012.