

Dark Shadows

Directed by: Tim Burton

Review by: M_____ B_____

Tim Burton's film Dark Shadows brings mixed opinions to me, parts are great and others, not so much. This has been the case in some of Burton's other films, but because of his other more or less brilliant work, some will have high expectations of Dark Shadows. The film did not quite click for me, but broken down the writing and performances were entertaining **(2)**.

The movie begins with explaining a short back story, introducing the main character Barnabas Collins (Johnny Depp) The introduction tells the story of Depp's **(6)** immigration to America in the late 1700's and builds fishing community named collinsport. Eventually he builds Collinswood, a huge mansion to be his family home. He falls in love and means to be married, however a witch named Angelique (Eva Green) is jealous of his love and curses him to eternal life as a vampire and kills his wife to be. Depp **(6)** is buried for 200 years before being accidentally released by careless construction workers. He returns to Collinswood, only to find his descendants as a dysfunctional family and the family business run down and even worse, Green **(6)** is immortal and tries to win his heart. Over the story Depp **(6)** is learning to cooperate with his family, and face his challenges as a vampire **(3)**.

Dark Shadows' performances are all around good **(1)**. Helena Bonham Carter does an enjoyable show as a psychologist with a drinking problem, her character was humourous and believable. The interactions Green's character and Depp (who is as cool as ever) were well acted and enjoyable to watch **(5)**. Christopher Lee makes an appearance, as well as Alice Cooper **(5)**. Depp steps a small way out of the ordinary into a more comedic role, but it was the juxtaposition of him with other characters and stereotypical 1970s culture that makes his role really funny **(5)**.

The script has some good and bad moments **(1)**. At the beginning of the film three main characters are introduced, Barnabas, Angelique and Vicky (Bella Heathcote) the main love interest of Depp **(5)**. **(6)** When the setting of the film changes to the year 1972 Vicky is focused on, but as soon as Depp **(6)** is awoken, he seems to take over and his chemistry with Vicky seems ignored **(5)**.

Overall my feelings for Dark Shadows are mixed, at times it is very good and others... not so much **(1)**. It is definitely not among Tim Burtons best films, but it may keep some people satisfied. Hopefully Frankenweenie will be better **(4)**.