

'TWILIGHT' HITS THEATERS

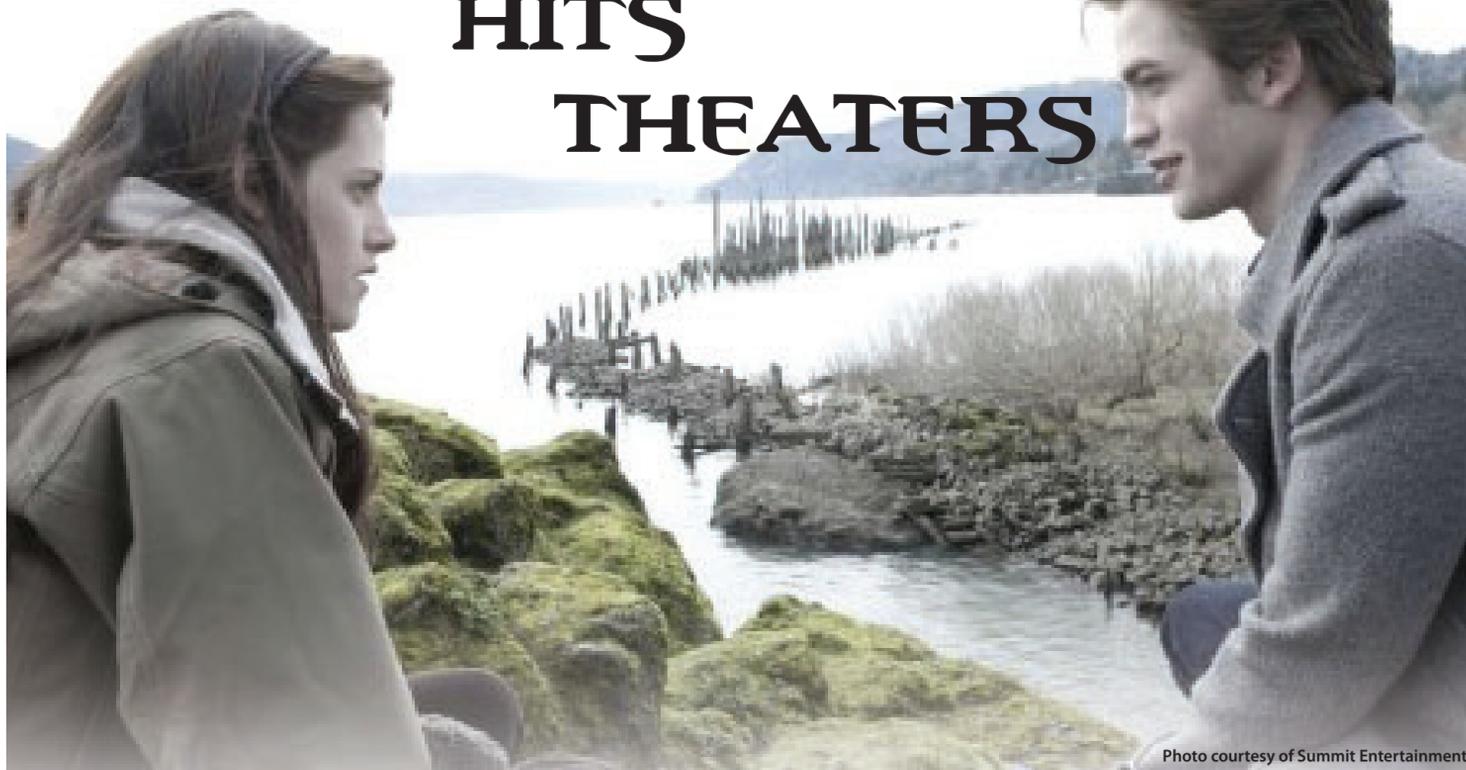


Photo courtesy of Summit Entertainment

Vampire love story attracts varying opinions

BY STEPHANIE HALL
Reviewer

My first memory of "Twilight" was seeing the dark novel laden with forbidden fruit secretly being

passed among my friends. Eventually the ever-present apple combined with the constant murmurs of Edward Cullen got to be too much and I finally borrowed my little sister's copy. As quickly as I'd finished the book, I was sucked in by Edward's obsessive adoration and the mysterious Cullen family. I was ecstatic that a movie was coming out but worried that the actors couldn't match the characters already so alive in my mind.

After sitting through what felt like

a five-minute but was really a two-hour movie, I came out enraptured with Edward Cullen. I'll be the first to admit I went straight back to my room and checked him out on IMDb.

Eventually the enchantment of Edward Cullen faded, and I committed the cardinal sin for movie watching: I compared the movie to the book.

Kristen Stewart as Bella Swan would not have been my first choice, but with a few more acting lessons she could turn into a decent Bella. Robert Pattinson as Edward Cullen: A+. Before the movie, I had my doubts because he kind of looked like a creeper. But through the movie, like in the book, he turns from aloof and awkward to dreamy and perfect. The rest of

the Cullen family was well selected — except for Jasper, who instead of looking restrained, looked like he was constipated throughout the movie. All of the La Push Indians seemed well selected for the entire 30 seconds they were in the movie, but my biggest qualm was with the rug they used for Jacob's (Taylor Lautner) hair.

I was surprised that the producers didn't bring Jacob's story line into this movie, but I guess they are saving it to spice up the second film. I thought the movie could have used more storylines besides scene after scene of Bella and Edward in close, intense conversation with underlying sexual tension that ends with happy music and them chatting in various places. I thought they should have had a few more comedic scenes to deviate from the tragic love story. Though I'm a little disappointed with the plot of the movie, I would still go see it again and think any girl will fall for Edward's charms (unless you're weird and root for Jacob).

BY TYLER GEORGE
Reviewer

I stood in line among swooning girls and bookworms of all ages to buy my ticket to the film release of Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight." Being a guy who has never read the book, I entered the theater with a notable bias and was quite unsure of what to expect.

"Twilight" is a much-anticipated book-turned-movie about Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart), a high school junior who falls in love with the seemingly perfect Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), a vampire. Most fans have been engrossed in the books for a couple of years now, and after seeing the movie, I can understand why — to some extent.

I was impressed by the film. I expected a movie that, like the book, was aimed at teenage girls who had a thing for vampires. What I got, however, was a more guy-friendly movie that I enjoyed for the most part.

The acting was good, but I have

a feeling that Pattinson was chosen for the role more for his looks than his acting skills. His performance in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" was sub-par, and I honestly didn't expect much more from him here.

Watching most TV morning shows and entertainment shows the week before the "Twilight" release, I noticed it was receiving a lot of hype. Another thing I noticed was that the Downtown Cinema 8 had a midnight showing of "Twilight" but did not show "Quantum of Solace" at midnight on the release date. Yes, "Twilight" was a big deal, but does it have another 21 incredibly successful movies behind it to back it up? Is it a bigger deal than Bond? Although maybe not worth all of the hype, "Twilight" was a worthwhile movie, and my ticket was money well spent.

Even though it totaled 122 minutes, "Twilight" was exciting and entertaining enough to keep me from wondering, "When will this movie be over?" Definitely a must-see this year.

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