La Haine written and directed by Matthieu Kassovitz
Reviewed by Caroline

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Crime Drama

(Ages 16 +) See TV Review from Common Sense Media

Give a summary without spoilers!
La Haine is a French film set in the suburbs of Paris in the 1990s. It begins in a turbulent time after the police have gravely injured a young man, Abdel. The film takes place in a span of under 24 hours and follows three of Abdel's friends in the wake of the incident. All three young men come from immigrant families. Vinz is a young Jewish man with a temper who idolizes the character of Travis Bickle from Taxi Driver. Hubert is an Afro-French man who loves boxing and wishes to get out of the suburbs. Saïd is from a North African Muslim family and tries to mediate peace in his environment. The film follows the three as they act out in frustration against the oppression their community faces. In addition to youthful hooliganism, the film is balanced by meaningful, philosophical conversations between the friends as they muse on their world. The film discusses matters such as prejudice, hatred, violence, oppression, and friendship but with a youthful spirit.

What drew you to this film?
I originally watched the film because I had seen Vincent Cassel, who plays Vinz, in the film Black Swan. I was also drawn to the storyline because police violence is a prevalent issue in American society but seeing it in the context of another country was really interesting. I also love the characters of this film, they're so complex and lovable even when they make mistakes. I also found it unique that the film is shot in black and white.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously watched?
N/A

To whom would you recommend this film?
I'd recommend this film to anyone who is interested in sociology or social justice. I'd also recommend it to people who might find it difficult to focus while watching long movies because the pacing of the film keeps the viewer engaged.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?
Yes, after viewing it this became one of my favorite movies of all time. It approaches serious topics in an entertaining and stylish manner.

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?

N/A