



A Film Review



1. What film did you see? (original title)
2. Introduction: When?, Where?, Who with?...
3. Genre, director and script, nationality, runtime, release time, production company, type of audience (rating: G, PG, PG-13, R, NC-17)
4. Trilogy / sequel / saga / remake, true story, based on a book
5. Languages (O.V. / subtitles), dubbing, soundtrack
6. Where was it set? (real, imaginary locations)
7. What was it about? (synopsis)
8. Who was in the cast? (leading, supporting actors, stunts) What was the acting like?
9. Special Effects, makeup and hairstyling, costumes, sceneries,...
10. Awards, shooting, box office (blockbuster or bombed), critics and viewers rating
11. Give your opinion (strong and weak points) Would you recommend the film?
12. Extra: Show the trailer, soundtrack, film poster, snaps / shots from the film...

When writing a film review, we usually use the Present Simple or Present Simple Passive to write about the plot and we use adjectives for description.

TWO HANDS: OPINION ESSAY

Read the following short comments of the movie *Two Hands* from the website www.imdb.com.

The down-underworld

10/10

A refreshing black comedy starring some of Australia's finest. In the same way that *Lock Stock and 2 Smoking Barrels* (Guy Ritchie) captured the funny side of London gangsters, *Two Hands* rips through the Sydney underworld. It wouldn't be so funny if it wasn't so close to the bone.

An Australian classic. If Australia could pull more rabbits like this out its hat it might actually have a film industry worth keeping an eye on.

Two Hands...Too Bad

1/10

I went to see *Two Hands* on the recommendation of friends. I am still friends with them but less likely to trust their judgment in future. It was billed as a comedy but with the exception of the 'bank job' (which I have to admit was hilarious) it was certainly not and ten minutes of humour do not make a comedy.

The characters were so full of possibilities it was difficult to see how this film could fail but the script was so inane a junior high school Kylie Mole would have been too embarrassed to admit authorship and there is the root of this film's downfall. For those who go to see this film and, like me and the party I saw it with, you can't see the point after 15 minutes....it doesn't get any better.... go to the movie that started 15 minutes after this one before it's too late and watch that. For those that make it to the end and cringe at the ticket counter scene ...'I told you so'.

In groups of 3, write a **500-word opinion essay** based on your own appreciation of the movie. Explain your own feelings, justify with explanations and examples. Your writing should be articulated, that is to say include **linking words** and of course should have a **proper structure**.

You will be assessed on:

- your capacity to correctly use the language
- the construction of the essay
- the content (argumentation/ examples etc.)

Two Hands (1999 film)

Plot

Fill in the blanks using the words at the bottom of the page.

Jimmy, while working at a strip club in Kings Cross, is approached by local mob boss Pando who says he has work for him. Pando gives Jimmy \$10,000 to deliver to a woman in Bondi, and when she appears not to be home, he goes for a swim on the beach. Unfortunately the \$10,000 is stolen by two street kids while he is swimming, leaving him heavily indebted to the furious Pando and his gang. The street kids, Pete (Evan Sheaves) and Helen (Mariel McClorey), go on a spending spree with their newfound wealth.

The car Jimmy was using on the job—a Ford Falcon belonging to Pando's associate Acko—is stolen by a young man and taken to a mechanic with the intention of selling it. The mechanic happens to be a friend of Acko's, who, displeased at the news of his car being stolen, suspects Jimmy's involvement. Acko arrives to recover the car but on the way there his car hits and kills street kid Pete. Helen watches in disbelief as Acko simply picks the dead boy's body off the street and dumps it in the gutter, concerned more about the damage to his car. He drives off leaving Helen alone, crying by her dead friend.

Jimmy comes up with a plan to pay off the debt by robbing a bank the next day in Bankstown, New South Wales along with two others. The night before he arranges to meet new friend and love interest Alex (Rose Byrne) at a pub. Unfortunately, the meeting's arrangements are heard by Les, a friend jealous of Alex's attraction to Jimmy and keen to get in with Pando's gang. After Les informs the gang of the couple's whereabouts, Jimmy is forced to flee the pub with Alex, attempting to escape on the Sydney Monorail, however the escape proves unsuccessful and Jimmy is taken to a remote location where the gang plan to kill him. Through the indirect intervention of Jimmy's dead brother (who acts as a guardian angel figure throughout the film), Jimmy is able to escape and make his way back home to prepare for the bank robbery.

The robbery is not without its problems. When returning with the cash bags, one of the men attempts to jump over the bank counter, but fails and lands unconscious on the bank floor. He is dragged by Jimmy into the car, and comes round just as the police begin shooting and returns fire. The getaway driver is killed by the police but the robbery is on the whole successful. Jimmy gets the money he needs, escaping in a stolen Toyota Celica with his remaining accomplice. Ironically, the stolen auto's radio station bumper sticker is spotted by that station's competition team, who give chase attempting to award Jimmy a \$10,000 prize. Not wanting to be identified after the robbery, Jimmy rams them off the road.

Jimmy returns to Pando's office to pay off his debt, but thinking he has a gun the gang once again attempt to kill him. He is able to give them the money, and is offered more work by Pando as a result. Jimmy leaves in disgust after pulling a gun on Pando. As Jimmy leaves, Helen the street kid passes Jimmy, and in retaliation for the death of her friend Pete she shoots Pando and his gang dead. The movie ends with Jimmy and Alex buying tickets at an airport to a location 'up north' away from the pressures of life in Sydney.

damage goes for a swim shoots Pando Sydney Monorail two street kids bumper sticker
hits and kills robbing a bank the car has a gun meeting's arrangements a location 'up north'
a strip club Jimmy's dead brother lands unconscious a spending spree getaway driver Bondi
rams them off

Now discuss the film in small groups.

- What did you think of the plot? the characters? the script?
- Which scenes are the most memorable? Why?
- How would you categorize the film? Explain your choice.