Summary and Response/ Analysis of the film Harriet

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Author Note

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# Summary

In the movie, Harriet, Harriet Tubman, tells her story chronologically. She is a slave whose freedom is denied because her master defaulted on a promise; she survived head trauma in youth and still has spells, peppered with clairvoyant episodes. Upon seeing an opportunity to escape north with her husband, she successfully traverses a dangerous trek on foot, through cold, past dogs and out of range of rifles. Her husband’s escape was stymied before it started, so she accomplishes this feat of endurance alone. Settled in Boston for a year, she makes the acquaintance of abolitionists, who support, warily, her plans to return south and retrieve her husband and family. It doesn’t go as planned. At this point, the movie settles for a predictable rhythm. Harriet heads south in a variety of costumes and guides slaves north to Boston, New York, And often Canada. She always returns, despite superior numbers in pursuit, and the Underground Railroad is born.

As Harriet, Cynthia Erivo is wonderful in most human scenes, struggling with the despair of maintaining family ties in slavery. But Lemmons’ script gives Tubman something of a superpower. Look, she runs faster, she outsmarts everyone, she tells the future. The human Harriet is pretty compelling, whereas, the movie is less so. The best parts are supported by a deep and talented cast, particularly Henry Hunter Hall as a young, woods-wise guide for hire. And Terence Blanchard’s simple, elegant score holds up to repeated listening.

# Response

Harriet -the 2019 Hollywood movie, emphases on the efforts of an abolitionist historical figure Harriet Tubman. The movie focuses on her struggle to let herself free form slavery, as she had been oppressed and was not allowed to live her dreams (Harriet n.d.). The film portrays her struggle against the racial oppression which she had been facing throughout her life. The makers of the film have related each aspect of Tubman’s life in the film, which appears quite relatable to an exhilarating and encouraging life of the iconic figure of American history. The primary theme of the film is based on Harriet’s transformation from being a freedom fighter to a historical figure. The later part of the movie focuses on her struggle to free other detainees of white oppression, who had been facing cruelties imposed by the White Americans. Harriet- the film is truly an honour to the lives of those who have fought for the rights of Black Americans.

# Analysis

The director has captured the shining spirit of Harriet Turban’s life in a much appealing manner. The movie appears accurate for the reason that unlike other history-oriented films, the director has not taken the liberty of manipulating the timeline of events and the invention of several characters. As the norms suggest, that movies based on the biopics of historical figures get a little attention from the viewers, but Harriet had defied this norm. There are several things in the film which create the reason to get the viewers' attention. The most appealing of them all is the fixation of characters. Cynthia Erivo, Odom Jr., Joe Alwyn and Clarke Peters have exquisitely played their part in depicting the times of slavery. Another fact, which had brought the attention of people to this movie is a little pause, in the making of history- focused movies. Along with this, Herriot embraces times, which make people remember the struggle their ancestors had faced. As slavery and the long wars had made American people, the nation they are today; therefore, people adore plays which take them back in times. Lastly, Harriet is related to the theme of slavery, which is covered in the class.

# References:

*Harriet*. http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4648786/ (December 12, 2019).