

ARTS & VARIETY

Silent Sky: A Review

BY ALEXANDRIA GOSEN

CSP SENIOR RUTH ELKERTON'S long awaited adaptation of *Silent Sky* by Laura Gunderman finally and successfully came to pass the first weekend of classes. *Silent Sky* is a show that takes place in the early 1900s and follows the real astronomer Henrietta Leavitt. The story shows women battling with the sexism of the time, and their alliances that form as they uncover secrets of the universe.

Originally scheduled for March 2020, Elkerton's production was sadly postponed when campus was abruptly shut down last semester. After months of rehearsals the cast of five finally came together for a fabulous, Covid-safe production. *Silent Sky* was live streamed on Youtube and only students or family with the link were able to access the video. This made the viewing process quite accessible, unique, and it was fun to experience from the comfort of viewers' own homes.

The set and lighting design of the show was exquisitely simple. Nothing was over the top nor distracting, but everything had a purpose. The lighting reflected both scenes and moods when needed, and it all balanced out very well with the live recording format.

Despite having to adjust to wearing masks and a lack of a live audience, the cast still remained energetic, expressive, and clear. When asked, the cast collectively agreed that there were many challenges when faced with the changes. Their challenges range from breathing difficulties to troubles showing emotion with only half a face. The cast successfully conquered every challenge they faced with flying colors.

Though we are clearly in a strange time, Concordia's theatre department has been adapting quite well to new health and safety standards. *Silent Sky* has proven that nothing will keep this department down, and we can expect many good things to come from the rest of the season.

Inception Movie Review

BY HAMZA ISMAIL

INCEPTION IS A FAST paced action film with funny banter, crazy CGI effects and an interwoven plot that earned it four academy awards, which is remarkable since the plot is about sleeping. This heralded film is about the subconscious that lies in each of us.

Dom Cobb, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, is a thief who specializes in stealing secrets by entering the minds of his targets. Cobb's target is Mr. Saito, played by Ken Watanabe, who arranged the mission to test Cobb. Mr. Saito offers Cobb, and in exchange his criminal past would be erased. With the chance to see his family again, Cobb agrees and assembles his team. Arthur, played by Joseph Gordon-Levitt, is Cobb's partner who researches the target. Cobb travels to meet the young Ariadne, played by Ellen Page, who mirrors the audience as Cobb teaches us how to build dreams and design mazes within the mind. This part of the film truly surprises the audience with the detailed worldbuilding, concepts of dream manipulation, and the gravity defying physics of the world. It is here where Mal is introduced, Cobb's dead wife, who reminds him of his failure as a dream architect. He assembles the rest of the team: Eames is the team's identity thief and impersonates a close acquaintance of the target, and Yusuf, the alchemist who derives and formulates the drugs used to enter into the target mind. The target is Robert Fischer, heir to Mr Saito's rival business group. The plan is simple: formulate an idea in Robert's mind to break up his family's business, hence, an inception is formed.

Inception's beauty is not in the gravity defying physics or gun fights but instead in its characterization and storytelling. Cobb is a man haunted

with regrets and fears and as the team goes deeper into the mission, Cobb's fears are revealed. The climax isn't a gun fight or a martial arts battle, but a confrontation of his biggest mistake. Arthur and Ariadne help Cobb open up and confront his past. Eames and Mr. Saito make a great comedy group with funny moments and banter to lighten the mood.

Inception's plot is as equally important to the character growth in the film. While the overall premise of the plot is simple, the movie introduces nuances and rules that help govern and explain the science behind *Inception*. As Cobb and his team go deeper into the dreams, the dangers grow from within the dream world and in the team. The nuanced plot is very well like a labyrinth, so keeping attention from the get go is key.

Inception grounds the viewers with its detailed plot, while also keeping them interested with high stakes and adrenaline pumping fight scenes. It is a great classic film that will keep you watching.

Book Review: *The Woman in Cabin 10*

BY KALYNA XIONG

WHO ENJOYS GOING ON a cruise? Who wants to go on a cruise? Cruises are meant to be fun and relaxing. It's a personal getaway. Cruises are supposed to be safe since there's no chance of an escape if a crime is committed. However, Ruth Ware's novel, *The Woman in Cabin 10*, turns something luxurious into a nightmare.

Ruth Ware is an established, British writer who became a renowned psychological thriller novelist. Her novels are published and sold around the world. She has written many books, starting from her debut novel, *In a Dark, Dark Wood*, to her recent release, *One by One*. Her works have been consistently praised and have been included on the Sunday Times and New York Times bestseller list—*The Woman in Cabin 10* is one of them.

Laura "Lo" Blacklock is a travel journalist who receives the opportunity to attend a cruise on the Aurora—her job of a lifetime. During her stay, everything is great. The boat was beautiful, and she is able to network and meet new people, until she encounters the young woman in the cabin next-door who suddenly disappears. However, to the crew members and other guests on the boat, the young woman never exists. Determined to find out the truth, Lo sets out to investigate the disappearance and figure out what happened to the woman in cabin 10.

I would recommend this book for those who enjoy a good thrill and mystery. The novel extends its beginning more until it gets to the climax, but once you reach it, it is enjoyable as it will keep you on your toes. There will be constant questions running through your mind as you grow more curious about what will happen next. As the mystery continues to unravel itself, you will encounter surprises, become anxious, and eagerly continue to the next page in anticipation of what is going to happen next. There are some things to be aware of inside the novel. The book does have some scenes that will deal with trauma, manipulation, and violence. If there's any discomfort in any of these things, you may want to stray away from reading it.

Ruth Ware's novels have always been on my list of books to read; I always see them in bookstores and libraries, but I never had the time to get my hands on any of them. When I received *The Woman in Cabin 10*, I was elated and could not wait to start reading. After reading the book, I was satisfied with her work and plan to read more of her novels in the future.

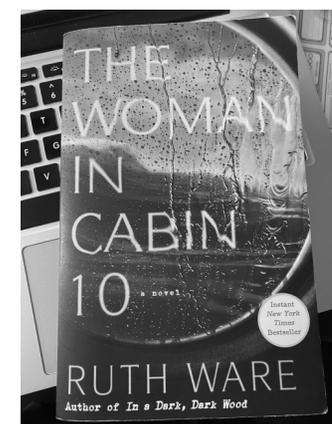


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