

King Richard: A Movie Review

BY SIRAK THEODROS

KING RICHARD TELLS THE STORY

of Richard Williams; the father of famed tennis players Serena and Venus Williams and how he molded them into the athletes we know today. Richard Williams, portrayed by Will Smith, is an eccentric but hardworking father who wishes to see his daughters as the future of tennis. He believes that throughout the film the path he is carving for his children will have them destined for greatness. Going into the movie, I didn't know much about the Williams sisters aside from being world-renowned athletes or that their father was involved in their journey to becoming tennis players. It shed a new light on what the sisters had to overcome and how their father played a role in shaping them as the popular sport figures we see today.

The movie did a good job of making Richard an intriguing and flawed character that the audience can relate to and emphasize with, which the film expresses well. Richard is shown in the movie as an unconventional and stubborn man who wishes to see his daughters succeed in the tennis world

and uplift them from the world they come from. For the whole movie we see Richard challenge other people who question his plan of training his daughters in an unconventional way. Despite the complications that Richard faces in the movie, his resolute behavior and faith in his plan help develop an intriguing and divergent path for his daughters in the sports world.

The movie dealt with complex themes of sacrifice, family and faith, something that we deal with in everyday life. The way Richard sacrifices his dreams to form a better life for his daughters shows the love and hardship that he undergoes throughout the movie. His hard work and determination in his daughters elevated Venus and Serena to the caliber of athleticism that is displayed in the film. Having faith in his family was also a central theme that was conveyed in the movie; Richard's wife Oracene Price's faith in her husband that his plan of crafting exceptional tennis players in their daughters was a strong focal point of the film.

Though the movie is about Richard, it shines a light on Oracene Price, the mother of Serena and Venus Williams. Played by Aunjanue Ellis, the film displays Oracene as the strength of the film. Her faith in her husband despite his complexities never wavered, as she stayed strong that her daughters will achieve their dream as tennis players that her husband envisions. The actress did a great job of making Oracene relate her struggles and strength of character to the audience as we understand what she was feeling and undergoing in the movie. The actors brought their real-life characters to life and molded them into well-rounded characters that we could relate to and see as human beings.

To conclude, though the movie seems to be about the tough world of having a foothold in the tennis world, I felt like the movie was a simple tale of a father loving his daughters and seeing them flourish in a world of rules and rigidity.