

One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest Review

By: Connor Gilbert



JACK NICHOLSON
ONE FLEW OVER
THE CUCKOO'S NEST



“One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest” is an instant classic in American literature. Before watching the on screen adaption, bookworms were skeptical of the film being able to do the book justice. That is until they saw the movie... The on screen adaption of “One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest”, directed by Milos Forman, and the actual book, written by Ken Kesey, complement each other in ways no pair has done before. Infact each are so good in their own respects, you cannot compare the two. To get the full effect of the genius, you must watch/read both- or you’re missing out. The book has an amazing plot, with great little details you cannot include in a two hour movie. The film brings the characters to life, you feel like you have a personal

connection with the people on screen while watching the movie. The characters and amazing acting make the movie. Without the acting of two brilliant talents, Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher; the story told in both film and book adaptations, “One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest”, would never be seen in the same light.

Often times Jack Nicholson plays a vulgar, true blue, rebel. A “no-nonsense” mastermind of non-sense, meaning he takes no hesitation to get right into his antics on screen. Whether it be the Joker or Col Nathan Jessup; playing a psychotic character that loves to test the system is no new role for Nicholson, or is it...

Nicholson stars in the Hit movie, “One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest”, where the Hollywood big wig plays yet another deranged lunatic that lives for anarchy. Or so we thought..

You see, this is broken link in the chain; that is because Randle McMurphy (Nicholson’s Role) isn’t all that crazy. Nicholson plays the role with such depth, at first glance it may seem as



though his character is crazy. His actions as the movie progresses not only prove otherwise, but also showcase Nicholson's genius acting chops. At the start of the film we view McMurphy as the typical charismatic rebel in a psychiatric ward. As the movie rolls on we develop a certain understanding of McMurphy's antics. It isn't until a cinematic shot of McMurphy showcasing a very concentrated stare that we realize McMurphy isn't all that crazy.

Throughout the entire movie up until this point we believe McMurphy is only pranking the infamous Nurse Ratched (played by Louise Fletcher) to pass time, he believes it himself as well. McMurphy finally has the chance to leave, it is then we see him gazing off into the distance. We see the true depth of McMurphy, realizing he was more invested in this ward than he originally thought. He realized his antics were not for himself, not because he was crazy, but because he wanted to help the oppressed patients that couldn't stand up for themselves. This portrayal of the character made the film. In other words, Nicholson stole the show.

Although Jack Nicholson was great, Louise Fletcher was brilliant. Fletcher plays the character everyone loves to hate, Nurse Ratched. Nurse Ratched is an evil person, with seemingly no soul. Although Ratched is evil, it is not her actions that necessarily make us hate her. It is her reactions, that make everyone want to squirm in their seat. When Ratched responds so calm, collected, and cold blooded to every little spirit of joy in the ward, sends a chill down everyone's back. She literally sucks the life out of everyone in the film, and does it like it's "business as usual". Her utter control of everything that happens in the mental institution has a dictator like mentality, with a "prudent nun like" demeanor. Louise Fletcher played the role to perfection.



There were many other great acting performances, along with other great film techniques that made the film so special. Although there are many great things, it is because of the two powerful leading roles in the film that reserved "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" a special place in my heart. The book is great as well, but the movie had me hooked; the portrayal of the characters on screen made the audience feel connected and invested in the story. That is why I rate this movie is receiving a 5 star rating. Never have audiences felt so connected to characters on screen as they do with "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest".

