



THE PURITAN POST

| by Hank W. Mardukas |

This Week on TV

The Twilight Zone (CBS ALL ACCESS)

Today, CBS' new streaming service CBS All Access premiers the Jordan Peele hosted new update to *The Twilight Zone*. The first episode, and weaker of the two that debuted, features Kumail Nanjiani as a comic who takes advice from a fellow comedian played by Tracy Morgan to make his act more personal with bizarre consequences. The episode is rather cringeworthy and doesn't feel very *Twilight Zone* at all. The second, however, an adaptation of the Shatner-starring "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet", "Nightmare at 30,000 Feet" with Adam Scott as the lead, is a slight step up from the first episode. That said, it's still pretty mediocre television for how good the original series is. I recommend doing a free trial of All Access to judge the new take on the Rod Serling classic for yourself.

Also This Week on TV

Barry (Sundays, 10 pm HBO)

Bill Hader's *Barry* is back for its second season on HBO. The first season ended on quite a cliffhanger and the second picks up right where the first left off with the same perfect blend of comedy and drama. Hader and The Fonz lead a fantastic cast which includes Stephen Root and Sarah Goldberg, who does one of the best portrayals of an actor or actress ever put on screen. The standout performer for a second straight season though is Anthony Carrigan as NoHo Hank, one of the most brilliant characters on TV.

Director Spotlight: Jordan Peele



Birth: 2/21/1979, New York, NY

Notable Works: *Us*, *Get Out*

Fun Facts: Unable to get onto SNL, due to his MadTV contract, he started smoking lots of weed and writing scripts including *Get Out* - First black writer to win the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay

Review: *US* (2019) & The FINAL ISSUE of THE PURITAN POST

If you are a loyal reader of THE PURITAN POST, you are aware that my boss, Pat Collier, is a penny-pinching cheapskate who never pays for me to see and review new movies. Back in October, I was able to review my first new movie in *Halloween* (2018) and today I will finally review a second new release, Jordan Peele's sophomore follow up to *Get Out*, *Us*. My wife Prudence and I took our dog Nacho to the same drive in theater we saw *Get Out* back in 2017. While *Get Out* was by far and away one of the best Horror movies of the last two decades, *Us* is a movie that is much harder to review. Because in many ways, Jordan Peele lives up to the incredibly high expectations set by his debut film, but in other ways *Us* falls somewhat flat. First lets look at where *Us* went right.

Us brilliantly blends Horror genres in a way that I haven't seen in some time. Sometimes the movie is a straight slasher, sometimes it delves into "home invasion" territory, and other times it is an ode to classic human-experiment, Frankenstein-esque genre flicks amongst others. Its ability to blend these Horror sub-genres along with a nice balance of Comedy and Drama is a true testament to Peele's skills as a writer. The use of Luniz's "I Got 5 on It", amongst several other great music cues, works brilliantly with the Horror setting. These elements paired with exquisite cinematography and fantastic performances from the entire cast, make *Us* one of 2019's best so far. Lupita Nyong'o is sure to garner Oscar consideration and more importantly Hank consideration by the year's end. So with so much going right for *Us*, what went wrong?

WARNING: SPOILERS TO THE MOVIE *US* FROM HERE ON OUT

Us has a twist that you may or may not see coming. I, for better or for worse, saw it coming from the opening sequence. So while looking out for clues to validate it, I came to notice a number of plot holes with the twist. It is revealed at the end of *Us* that Lupita's mother character of Adelaide is actually the original tether Red, who we believed to be evil, and Red is actually the original Adelaide. This twist provides a great moment at the end with Adelaide, or should I say Red, and her son Jason, who senses his mother may not be who he thought she was. However, while the twist is cool, it opens the door for numerous plot holes like how Red was the only tether ever able to escape, or how the human version of Adelaide was never able to escape, or how she came to lose her voice, or how Adelaide-turned-Red even knew about the government experiment to begin with. These plot holes tell me that the producers behind *Us* hurried Peele's script into production. Had *Us* had a couple more passes on the screenplay, I suspect it could've been just as good as or better than *Get Out*. Unfortunately, *Us* ultimately feels rushed.

I also wanted to let you know that Issue No. 32 will be the final issue of THE PURITAN POST. Truth be told, I don't have many readers, and my other obligations make it difficult to write a weekly blog with no pay. It has been my distinct pleasure to write for THE PURITAN POST, and I thank all of you who have actually read it. Also Happy April Fool's Day!

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