

# Snowpiercer film stale, disappointing

**Austin Gonzalez**

OPINION EDITOR

Director Joon-ho Bong's most recent film, *Snowpiercer*, crashed onto the big screen accompanied by cheers of critical acclaim. When it comes to rotten tomatoes, the movie attained a 95%, "certified fresh," rating; the consensus was that *Snowpiercer* offers a spectacle the likes of which have been sorely missed by movie-goers, particularly those "numb to effects-driven blockbusters." The cast is filled with well-liked actors including Tilda Swinton and Chris Evers. *Snowpiercer* unfortunately is one of the worst movies in recent years. The plot is contrived, stale, and is another example of poor taste on the part of everyone involved.

In the future, an attempt to fix climate change has gone horribly wrong, ushering in a new ice age. All life is destroyed on the desolate earth except for those lucky few who managed to board the *Snowpiercer*.

This globe-trotting, miles-long train comes complete with an oppressed lower class and ignorant rich people living in opulence. The maintenance of the track and train as it treks through the frozen wasteland is merely meant to be assumed by the audience. A train from Chicago to the suburbs needs repair every few months and has accidents on the track more often than that. But a train that encircles the globe, through glaciers and mountains of snow and ice, for 18 years built on the whim of a fabulously rich man preparing for a doomsday runs without a hitch in either the track or the train; that's just logic. "The engine runs forever." It's the future, a future where an ice age was caused by global warming.

A lower class of several hundred people are kept sequestered in the back few cars, kept alive by being fed jellied bricks remi-

niscient of Soylent. They are beaten and abused by a militaristic order or guards, with the classic intelligence of a door stop.

A religion of sorts keeps the cult of the train alive. The idea of a preordained class system comes into play as the reason for the separation of the rich and the poor. We find out later that the rich bought tickets on the train, while the poor merely climbed in the back few cars which were open. Then they were sealed in for many months without food or water. The population on this train, the last bastion of humanity, must be kept in check and of course that means killing poor people from time to time.

The actual storyline is just as ridiculous and inane as the back history. The only problem with the story is that the discussions it leads to don't come from the movie itself. People afterwards will be filled with righteous anger against the upper class which oppresses them. In *Snowpiercer*, the worst the rich can be accused of is gross ignorance and being high all the time. All the time! There is a mastermind who controls the story, the train, and the people. This is a reasonable allegory to the way those who have the power to abuse it, and those who have comfort become short sighted. It's a shame that all that people garner from this is that rich people are evil.

Featuring tasteless trope after trope, it's with great luck that the movie-goers who are numb to effects-driven films are not yet numb to class warfare stories. With any luck, *Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, *Maze Runner*, *Snowpiercer*, etc. will become the standard so we can watch these future dystopias get torn down over and over and over again. I suppose one note of merit is that this time we've managed to escape the teenage protagonist and love story.

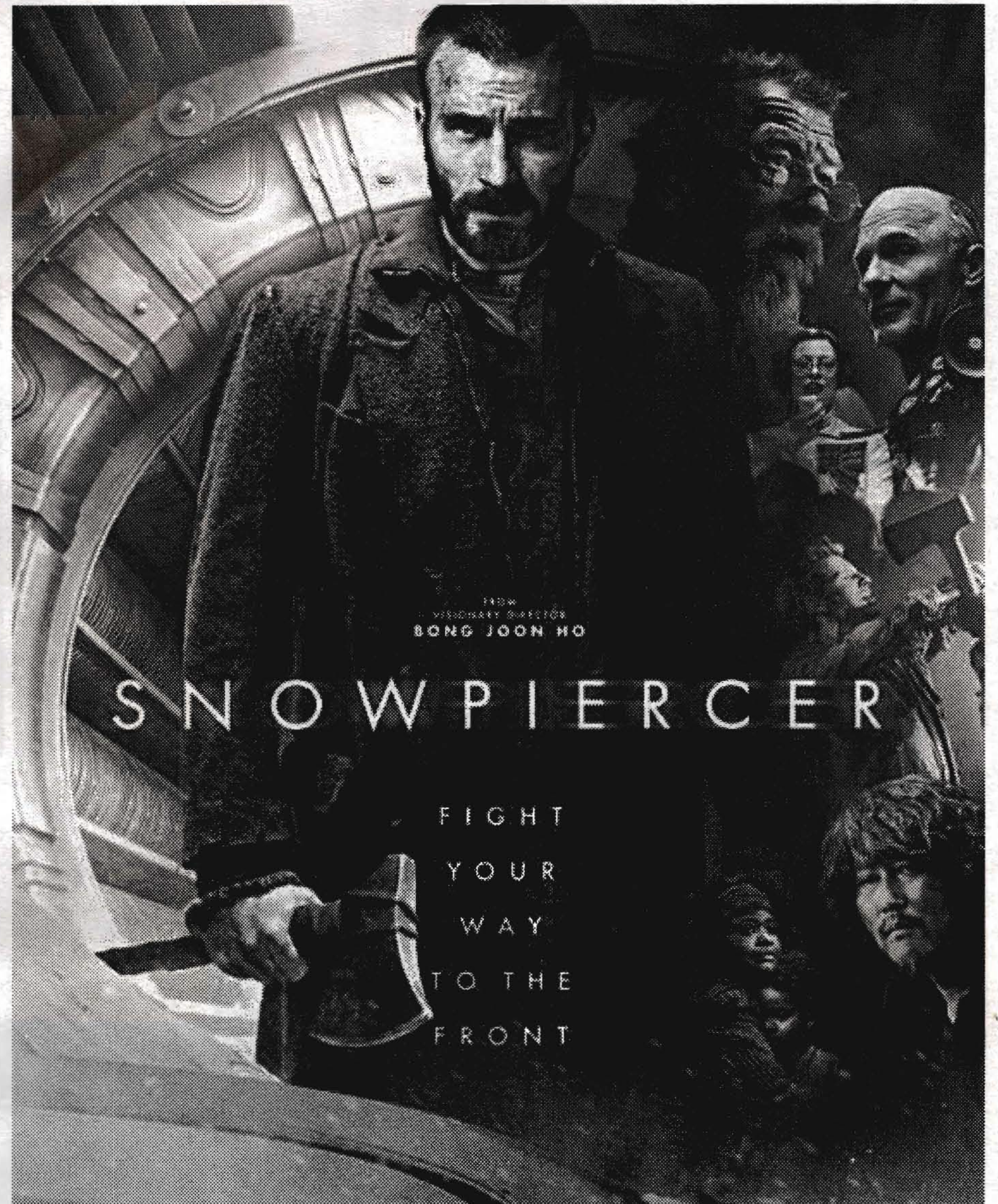


Image courtesy of snowpiercer-film.com

## Tech[nology]News:

# Apple customers bent out of shape

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OPINION EDITOR

The 8th generation iPhone is now available for sale. Officially called iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus, the current generation offers a wide range of improvements over the last iPhone.

Along with the revelation of the new phone came the long awaited Apple watch. In the days after the release, many problems and bugs have been found, including the now infamous #BendGate, referring to instances where the new iPhone 6 Plus allegedly bent while in owners' pockets.

The new iPhones are thinner than ever, measuring 6.9mm and 7.1mm wide

for the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus respectively. The iPhone 6 still lacks a full HD display, but includes an improved polarizer, higher contrast, and wider viewing angles.

The new iPhone promises to be more powerful while using less energy than the iPhone 5s. The iPhone 6 is 100 MHz faster than its predecessor, featuring a 1.4 GHz dual core processor. Apple stuck with 1 GB of RAM, which it promises will deliver the smooth experience its users expect.

A favorite feature of the iPhone crowd is its camera. While not able to shoot in 4k yet, the camera now has continuous auto focusing and a time lapse mode. Other new features bring the iPhone up to speed with Google's Nexus 4 (a smartphone from

2012) including an NFC chip, Swipe-style keyboards, and a proper battery notification.

Some users have expressed dismay at Apples decision to move from 4" handsets to 4.7" and 5.5".

All in all, these improvements may not count for much. For a price range of \$649 to \$849, the handset is clearly priced into its own league.

The One Plus One, a competing Android phone, features 3 times the RAM, SD card expansion, a better screen, a faster Quad core processor, 4K capable camera, and still manages all day battery life for a price range of \$299 to \$349.

The Moto G costs a mere \$179 unlocked; for the average phone user, it will sur-

pass expectations.

Despite better options and problems from bending chassis to iOS 8 bugs, iPhone 6 is expected to be on backlog until October, even for those who pre-ordered.

It's clear that some people simply prefer an integrated system. iPhone will work remarkably well with your Macbook Air and your new Apple Watch. Support and warranties from Apple are extensive and care is provided to its customers.

Not everyone wants a customizable experience and limitless options; they just want something that works and looks nice.



Image courtesy of apple.com