

Movie Review:

'Grand Budapest Hotel' a grand experience with seasoned director, star-studded cast

Kyle Stanevich
BUSINESS MANAGER

With the new Captain America movie overtaking box office records, it might have been easy to miss an even higher-rated movie, "The Grand Budapest Hotel." This has been one of the best movies I have seen in a long time, from the plot, to the cinematography, everything was amazing.

Directed by Wes Anderson, this movie takes on his usual style. The camera movements were calculated and crisp allowing the finest details in each scene to be seen by the audience. At points, there are so many details that it warrants another viewing just to take in little bits of humor and background that was undoubtedly missed the first go around. Plus, unlike most movies today, Anderson goes old fashion and uses meticulously crafted miniatures instead of computer-generated imagery (CGI) shots. This clever use of camera work yields a very stunning image, accenting the details included by the rest of the movie. There is one skiing scene in particular that switches between miniature and real, making the already humorous shot even more so.

While most critics find Anderson's work lost in the details, this film has evolved so that the details are there but not always integral to understanding the plot. Also, the characters of so many of his films have been regarded as

hard to relate to. Most authors usually make the characters vague enough so the audience can usually find a way to connect themselves, but Anderson has been able to give very fine details about the characters, and the audience is still able to empathize with them.

"The Grand Budapest Hotel" is a recount from an author of a story told by the aged owner of the world-renowned, but fictional, Grand Budapest Hotel. It follows the story of the young lobby boy, Zero Moustafa, and the hotel's concierge, Gustave, through their odd series of adventures. Gustave, not only the exquisite concierge, is also a good friend (sometimes more than a friend) to all the elderly women who stay at the hotel. After one of them dies, he becomes the owner of a valuable piece of art.

In order to claim this from the family it previously belonged to, Zero and Gustave go through many escapades to ensure the safety of the painting and their lives. There are secret societies, a blood hungry assassin, a supposedly inescapable prison, all while at the same time, a war is going on.

There is humor, romance, drama, and action, all cumulating is one fantastic movie. If you want something to do, go see this movie. And after you have seen it, go see it again and again to pick up on all the details and humor you missed the first time around. This big name actor-packed film with an artsy twist, will not disappoint.



Image courtesy of anticool.com

Restaurant Review:

Chi Café brings authenticity to classic Chinese dishes

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

Being a student is not an easy task, especially here at IIT. You will seriously start hating your life when finals are near and you are packed up with a hell of a lot of assignments, projects and research papers. All you can think of is studies, studies, and studies.

While you are studying you can skip your sleep time but not your meal, because if you won't eat properly you won't be energetic enough to work. But again, who has the time to eat? Most of our assignments are due at midnight (after a week of the given date) and we start working on it in the morning or sometime even in the evening.

So now we have submitted our assignment exactly on time and we feel like celebrating our accomplishment by having a good meal. But guess what? It already midnight and everything is closed except for 7-Eleven. I am



Image courtesy of chicafeonline.com

sure none of us would like to have 7-Eleven food after a long hungry day of hard work and stress.

As they say, where there is a will there is a way. So the other day, I found this awesome place in Chinatown named Chi Café, which is open from 8 a.m. to 5 a.m. As one of

the only restaurants in Chinatown open 24 hours (and most of the Southside, for that matter), I love it. Food is tasty, quick, and reasonably priced. Maybe not stunning, but at 3 a.m. or 4 a.m., damn, it hits the spot!

This is one of my favorite late-night spots, which gets packed pretty quickly during the weekend nights. The other day, I went there with my friends and ordered the crab wontons as an appetizer.

They were a good appetizer to get us started, but skip the sauce that is served with it because it can spoil the taste of the wontons. You may need to do some pointing at the pictures to express your dish choice to the waiter. They all know both Mandarin and Cantonese but their English can be lacking sometimes, which makes it all the more authentic.

We ordered chicken garlic fried rice, Kung Pao Chicken and beef briskets with steam noodle rice. The rice was awesome, the chicken was good too, but had a lot of peanuts in it; whereas the beef briskets didn't actually taste good. The good part is that the portions are a good size and very flavorful. Even though there were three people, we still saved some rice for our lunch. The service was fast and very friendly, even when they are really busy—which includes all hours of the night, especially the weekends. The place is comfy and you will see many friendly faces around you.

It is located at 2160-A S. Archer Avenue. The place can be a little tricky to find because it's in between the two buildings halfway in the mall it's located inside of, and there's a million different shops just like every other Chinatown I've known.

But if you don't want to go there then you can also order the food online on: www.chicafeonline.com.

Tech[nology]News:

StayFocusd extension: glorified, electronic baby-sitter

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

Like any good browser, chrome has tons of plugins and extensions to help you get through the day and make life on the internet more enjoyable. Everyone should be familiar at this point with Adblock and Adblock Plus, but here's an extension you might not have tried: StayFocusd. We all enjoy the occasional cat picture or internet meme, some of enjoy them a bit too much. StayFocusd is essentially a nanny that limits the time you can spend on those nasty time wasters. With three tests and a bit of stress building up, I figured why not give it a try.

The settings are quite cheeky and couldn't be clearer. You only get a set amount of time on blocked sites and you can specify times for your nanny to watch over you. Any time you try to unblock a site it gets snappy with you "Do you really think that's a good idea?"

If you want to change settings you have to complete a difficult, but doable, challenge. You must type, without error, a paragraph reminding you how procrastinators are worthless and need to focus instead of get around the things trying to help them. There's also a nuclear option, but that's a bit too intense for me. I set the limit per day to be 30 minutes for Imgur, 9gag, Tumblr, Pinterest, Craigslist, 4chan, my favorite webcomics, and others.

Most of these sites, I don't actually frequent, but I had this feeling that bored me would be willing to try new sites in order to kill time. The extension will even follow you on what links you click from, so if you're on Reddit and go to read an article on BBC, you're still using up your time allotment. All of this adds up to a fairly effective block on your habits, but the consequences were interesting.

I set my limit to 30 minutes and found that I usually don't spend more than 30

minutes in total a day on these sites. It's still three and a half hours a week I waste looking at funny pictures and comics, but my self-allowed breaks in the day aren't as gratuitous as I thought they were.

It was really funny when I tried to go to Craigslist forgetting I had blocked it only to see a snappy response from my browser, "Shouldn't you be focusing?" There were some problems though. I use YouTube to listen to music while I do homework and write papers, but I also waste extensive amounts of time watching videos from Veritasium and Numberphile. Ultimately, I think this nanny was a bad idea for me.

Friday evening after all of my tests, I finally had some time to just sit with no need to rush. I burned through my 30 minutes and suddenly I was left by myself with my boredom. Bored.

I texted some friends. Bored. I went for a little walk. Bored. I sat down on my couch and after an hour of soul crushing

nothingness, I went to bed. Even if I couldn't go onto my time-wasting sites, it didn't make me want to be more productive; it just made me into a potato. The few times it was a reminder to stay focused was nice but the majority of the time if I wasn't focused it wasn't a fleeting thought to check out what's new on the BBC, I was focused on nothing but doing nothing.

It was some fun to have StayFocusd attached to my browser and it helped me be more conscientious of the time I spent on my favourite sites. If you find yourself excessively wasting time and missing deadlines maybe putting a check in place to remind you isn't such a bad idea.

If you're usually pretty okay about how you spend your time, it's really excessive. It does what it says it does, i.e. stop you from spending more time than you should on certain sites, but it's not going to make you any more of a productive person than you already are.