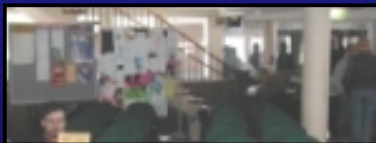


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THE GREATEST

AMERICAN

TRAGEDY

A Film Review of
the Freeform
performed at
Arcanacon XXIII



Version 1

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Introduction



THE GREATEST

A M E R I C A N

T R A G E D Y



Entertainment Daily



Your #1 source on-line for all the latest Hollywood gossip, glitz and glamour!

Hollywood does Shakespeare – In Epic Style!!!



Rumours are flying amongst Hollywood circles about Pan-Universal Studio's latest epic blockbuster, currently dubbed with the working title, "The Greatest American Tragedy".

Pan-Universal are hinting that some of the biggest names in the business - both actors and directors - have signed on for a 3-part movie, after the popularity of sequels and trilogies in recent years. The studio has reportedly allocated a budget the size of Alaskan oil reserves to create what will most certainly be one of the most memorable, if not epic, motion pictures of all time!

Hollywood insiders are saying that the script - based on the greatest tragedies written by the British Bard himself, William Shakespeare - have been "adapted" by the American Screenwriter's Guild into a phenomenal tale spanning generations. The press release promises a flick with action and turmoil involving tumbleweeds, mobsters, and even a dark near-future setting!



Anyone who's anyone is involved with this project, and everyone's lips are sealed. It will only be a matter of time before shooting starts, and when that happens we'll find out if this movie is the tragic tale (or perhaps, even the greatest tragedy!) ever made!

"American Tragedy"



AWARDS...



Trophies

Best Director in Film	: Cara Hann
Best Director out of Film!	: Lee Davis-Thalbourne
Serbian Medal of Honour	: James Cameron



Best Ensemble Performance (In Alphabetical Order)

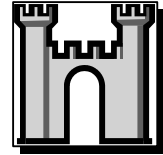
Beau Beauford	: Richard Allen
Lance	: Stuart Barrow
Brytanee Formika	: Laura Birch
Draco Krsnic	: James Cameron
Robert Denver	: Luke Coughlan
Dame Emily Goodchild	: Cara Hann
Horatio Edgar Williams	: Duncan Harris
Robert Henry Jr.	: Murray Robinson
Allen Rigby	: Lee Davis-Thalbourne



Oscars

Best Film	: American Tragedy
Best Director	: Dame Emily Goodchild
Best Actor (Female)	: Brytanee Formika
	: Dame Emily Goodchild
Best Supporting (Male)	: Beau Beauford
Best Supporting (Female)	: Dame Emily Goodchild
Best Foreign Film	: American Tragedy
Best Cinematography	: Allen Rigby
	: Horatio Edgar Williams
Best Original Score	: Brytanee Formika
Best Original Screenplay	: Robert Denver
Special Effects	: Allen Rigby
Best Technical Production	: Mark Philp (GM)

MacBeth : The Scottish Tragedy (Review)



Act 1

- Sc 1 :** The old west. U.S. Cavalry are fighting the Sioux Indians. "American Tragedy" begins with the three ghost dancers (three witches) from the opening scene of "MacBeth" giving a delightful and stand-out musical rendition of the original Elizabethan lyrics ("When shall we three meet again..."). Brytanee Formika's vocals added an eerie 'other worldly' feel to this introductory sequence.
- Sc 5 :** This scene, where the U.S. Cavalry military commanders plan their attack against the Sioux, was portrayed in authentic Elizabethan costume. I'm uncertain why there was a medieval castle in the background, but it added something to the scene. I won't comment on the tasteless use of various medieval costumes that somehow made it into the film!

Act 2

- Sc 2 :** The second Act deviated from Shakespeare's original play quite dramatically. Somehow, Major Duncan (King Duncan in the original) survived being assassinated. I lost track of the plot when Duncan was attacked in an outside setting by Lt. King (MacBeth), tossed into a pit of lime and managed to crawl his way out. I believe there was some form of repentance between Duncan and his son, Malcolm, but I can't quite be sure. In the end, Duncan did pass onwards, but not before some form of oath was made.

Act 3

- Sc 2 :** The stand-out moment from the movie involves the ghost of Major Duncan trying to run the new fort commander, Captain King with a ghost sword (perhaps it was a cavalry sabre?), to no effect.

Act 4

- Sc 1 :** I believe this is meant to be the scene where MacBeth consults the three witches for advice. In "American Tragedy", Captain King (MacBeth) and the ghost dancers (three witches) were involved a chase sequence with music, dancing and the burning of Dunsbane forest!?! I think this was meant to be a hallucination induced by the ghost dancers, but by this point in the film I'd totally lost any hope of following the plot!

Act 5

- Sc 1 :** The epic conclusion to the "MacBeth" sequence of the movie began with amazing amounts of doom and gloom from Lydia King (Lady MacBeth), played by Actor-Director Dame Emily Goodchild. All of the actors were riding on camels in this shot!
- Sc 2 :** Bea Beauford, a former Soap Opera star, and Robert Denver, one of America's premiere Broadway Stage Actors stole this scene, without a doubt!
- Sc 4 :** A group of musicians added to the soundtrack of the pivotal apex of the plot, as Captain King (MacBeth) and Sgt. Masters (MacDuff) battled one another. Captain King 'appears' to fall into a familiar-looking lime pit...
- Sc 5 :** The plot twist that made Shakespeare's play even more exiting was the re-emergence of Captain King from the pit and his revenge against Sgt. Masters! What an ending!!!

Julius Caesar (Review)



Act 1

- Sc 1 :** 70 years later and the grandchildren of the original characters are involved in the politics of running a city. This did not come through clearly in the opening sequence. What was shown were : a chase sequence on London's underground 'tube' network; shots of Buckingham Palace in the background; a mob of angry-looking English people; another chase sequence akin to "Ben Hurr", with charioteers chasing Pompeii ; and a gladiatorial fight in the Circus Maximus! By the end of this introduction my head was spinning. No expense was spared with the CGI effects. Perhaps this is where a good portion of the \$1 BILLION U.S. budget allocated to the film went!
- Sc 2 :** The "Beware the Ides of March" scene from "Julius Caesar". Except there were no soothsayers to warn Julian King (Julius Caesar) of his impending doom. They were written out of the script entirely!

Act 2

- Sc 1 :** In the original, the Conspirators plotted Caesar's overthrow with Brutus. The CGI effects were back again, as ALL of the Conspirators were added in during post-production!
- Sc 2 :** Bernie "The Brute" King (Brutus), Julian King's younger brother, lures Julian into an ambush... An interesting take on the events leading to Caesar's journey to the Senate (or in this case, Town Hall).

Act 3

- Sc 1 :** The assassination of Julian King (Julius Caesar) on the steps of the Town Hall was rumoured to have been shot three times. The musical score ever-present in the background added something unique to this re-interpretation of Shakespeare's play, and Draco Krysnic, the Foreign Film Actor from Serbia's portrayal of Bernie (Brutus) was masterful! The alternate DVD ending sees a large-scale martial arts fight, with the extras numbering in the proportions of a Cecil B. DeMill film (aka "The Ten Commandments").
- Sc 2 :** Mark Anthony Masters (Marc-Antony), played by Actor-Director Horation E. Williams, was played with a cockney accent. This added to the 'bit of filth' dialogue used as Mark Anthony informs Octavio King (Octavius) of Julian's death.
- Sc 3 :** A beautiful montage of Julian King's (Caesar) life was included in this scene. It truly touched all audiences in the theatre I viewed "American Tragedy" in. Thankfully, the editors cut the reading of Julian's will by his wife, Cassie King (Calpurnia) in half, perhaps for time reasons (or sheerly out of spite!).
- Sc 4 :** This comic scene involving Mr Rose and Mr Guilden (one character, the Poet, in the original) being chased by a mob in Elizabethan costume was a memorable moment in the mid-part of the film. I have to say at this point that Shakespearian garb appeared as a motif throughout the movie. Perhaps this was meant to add an existentialist element to "American Tragedy", in the vein of Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead"?!?

Act 4

Sc 3 : For some reason, the Conspirators who ended Julian King's life end up plotting with his ghost! I always thought the ghost was meant to harass Brutus! I'm not quite sure why this happened...

Act 5

Sc 2 : The end sequence of "Julius Caesar" sees a mob shoot-out between the Conspirators (the police) and those loyal to Caesar (the King mob family, in this instance). The battle looked like it was taking place in the O.K. Corale style, with western chaps and leathers and cavalry sabres present. Perhaps the props used during the filming of the "MacBeth" sequence made their way into this scene? Somehow, it worked! Though I'm not quite sure why...

Sc 3 : The ending to this portion of "American Tragedy" saw references to drug paraphernalia, perhaps used as a modern-day explanation for the very graphic conclusion to the original work (i.e. the death of Brutus). The Studio has since sent out a legal disclaimer to all members of the media disassociating itself with this specific scene!

Hamlet (Review)



Act 1

Sc 3 : The plot has progressed 90 years into the future, with the descendants of the characters from the first two portions of the film controlling a multi-national corporation in a futuristic setting. Harry King's (Hamlet) scene with John King (ghost of Hamlet's father – played magnificently by Lance, an up-and-coming Hollywood Heartthrob of an Actor!) was impressive, with a 'ghost in the shell' style feel. The ghost appeared on a television screen to his son, demanding vengeance for his death (as in the Shakespearian play!).

Act 2

Where did the entirety of Act 2 go?!? THE MOST IMPORTANT SEQUENCE, Harry King's madness scenes, Rozzer and the "G-Man" (Rosencrantz and Guildenstern), the Players... All missing from the film!?! How the Actor-Directors (Dame Emily Goodchild and Horatio E. Williams) still managed to hold the "Hamlet" sequence together without Act 2 is something that still perplexes me when I reflect back on "American Tragedy!"

Act 3

Sc 2 : A troupe of Street Performers (the Players) performs a play within a play, in virtual reality! The anime sequence in VR involved mecha (Japanese giant cartoon robots!) playing out an allegorical version of "Hamlet". This portion of the film went down well with the art house circuit, lending more weight to "American Tragedy"s somewhat eclectic plot. Robert Henry Jr., one of Hollywood's Faded Star's, has well and truly returned to the silver screen with his CGI-inserted performance in this scene! This play on a play within a play was the ingenious idea of Allen Rigby, the famous Media Celebrity and talk show host.

Act 4

Sc 4 : The famous "Alas poor Yorrick" sequence after Fiona's (Ophelia) passing. The Morticians (Gravedigger) lead into a flashback sequence of Fiona's "nutty childhood", which involves mud wrestling in original Elizabethan language! This sucked in a wide range of audience members, appealing to people on multiple levels...

Act 5

Sc 4 : The action returns to the realm of virtual reality where the grand finale sees everyone (and I mean EVERYONE) meet a sticky end, just like the original (only involving giant robots and a computer virus!).

Sc 4a : The less said about this scene, the better (how it made it past the cutting room floor I'll never know!). Why Beau Beauford was asked to do a shower scene to end "Hamlet", I'm uncertain, but rumour has it that this involved a dispute between himself and the Actor-Director Horatio E. Williams (who spent a large amount of time promoting the film across Asia during the location shoot of the "Hamlet" sequence).

Sc 5 : What could come after the conclusion of the greatest "American Tragedy" to conclude this epic movie?!? Yes, SHAKESPEARE HIMSELF!!! The ending sees Shakespeare writing a script, screwing it up and throwing it away, claiming it is "Too American". And then the credits rolled and the audience I was with gasped for air (or out of sheer shock).