

NOTABLY DEAD

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On Aug. 25, Netflix released its own adaptation of the “Death Note” franchise. With five previous movies, an anime series, a live action tv show, three video games and a musical, this series, originally a manga, has seen its fair share of adaptations.

The original 13 books followed Light Yagami as he dispensed omnipotent justice by killing those he saw fit to die in a small journal called the Death Note. Netflix, clearly not happy with their success in original content, decided to sink 40 million dollars into a film put together as poorly as a elementary school science fair project.

The 2017 adaptation of “Death Note” falls flat on its face. Director Adam Wingard leaves the viewers with a permanent crick in the neck due to the number of angled shots, which are all paired with a dark faded frame mimicking manga art that translates poorly to western cinema, making the film look artificial.

Along with terrible shots, the viewer is bombarded with artificial dialogue delivered by one dimensional characters. The acting in the film is bad, unbelievable and hardly feels human.

“Death Note”, originally, was all about the complex battle of wits between two mental giants: “Light” (Nat Wolff) and, his antagonist, “L” (Keith Stanfield). While his character arch left him as a blank sheet that someone wrote antagonist on, at the beginning of the movie, “L” seemed to be a well-developed character similar to the one shown in the original book. “Light”, however, was not portrayed as a mental giant, but rather a bumbling fool who couldn’t decide whether he had a God complex or was a jellyfish -- spineless and brainless. With a handful of background characters that vaguely resembled those in the original book, this Netflix adaptation feels more like a summary given by a fifth grader.

This movie has a great base -- the original Death Note series was well thought out and executed with precision. However, the same can’t be said about the Netflix adaptation. Everything that was done well in the original series was thrown out. Poor dialogue delivered by poor acting portrayed in terrible shots left viewers with the taste of a plastic apple in their mouth.

