

R E V I E W S

He's All That: A poorly executed Gen Z twist on a classic

Imagine the most entertaining love story—humor, teenage love and important life messages. Think of the most emotional and relatable coming of age story—tears and smiles and joy. Now erase all of that from your mind because He's All That is far from that.

He's All That was released August 25, 2021 on Netflix starring popular TikToker Addison Rae, alongside Laney Boggs and ex-Disney stars Peyton Meyers and Madison Pettis. There was quite a bit of controversy even before its release, with people skeptical about remaking the classic 1999 film She's All That and adjusting it to fit the 2021 audience.

After barely making it through the one hour and 35 minute film, I can attest that these worries were valid. Not only was this film one of the cringiest things I have ever watched, there was absolutely no emotion conveyed in the characters or any character development. It was like watching modern day robots fight over petty drama—something that I never want to witness again in my life.

The beginning of the movie was when I instantly knew I would not enjoy watching. Though the plot gave me hope, the acting was just not there. Raising money for her family and for herself, Addison Rae's character Padgett is a social media influencer, and a popular one at that. Showing the relationship between her and her mom, and even their relationship with financing, had potential to be a great— even though cliché— story. But again the acting didn't do it any justice, leaving the audience with even less hope.

I will admit my first thought was Addison Rae just shouldn't be acting— her acting was not good and even laughable. But after thinking hard about the entire film, I realized none of the actors were good. Madison Pettis and Peyton Meyers have both played great parts in the past— but in this film everyone's acting was made to seem like a joke. This leaves

me with two ideas: one, the directors and producers had no clue what they were doing, or two, that was the whole point and it just was not a good execution or idea for that matter.

After the main storyline is introduced and we get further into the movie both love interests are introduced, and both are absolutely atrocious. One the evil ex who is a televised version of a highschool Soundcloud rapper (you know what I'm talking about) and one a stereotypical loner boy with one friend, a grunge aesthetic, and love for photography

Peyton Meyers' performance of Taylor was so concerning I wanted to turn off the TV every time he had a scene. Tanner Buchanan's performance of Cameron was probably the best in the movie. Sure it was stereotypical and cliché, but his acting was a bit different than the others, he actually had emotion. I personally have not seen Buchanan in any other film or TV show but I know he isn't as well known as the other actors in the movie. It also helped that he was not hard to look at.

When it comes to side characters, one big concept I was confused by was Kourtney Kardashian appearing as Padgett's boss over social media. The only real reason she was cast in the movie was to bring more fame to the title. Her role, though small, could have been played by a much better actress and it would have made me feel a tiny bit better about the film—but alas fame and numbers nowadays tends to beat quality.

So, was the plot good? No. Was the acting good? No. Would I recommend you watch it? Maybe as background noise during family game night.

I think that if you are going to redo or follow the plot of an OG movie from the 90's it needs to be done well. First starting with more serious actors rather than TikTok stars and Kardashians.

ALLI RYAN

"Star Crossed" is a step away from her country roots

After 3 years of silence from Kacey Musgraves, I was yearning for more. Musgraves left me high and dry with Golden Hour. When her latest album, Star Crossed, came out, I automatically put it on and went for a drive.

"Star Crossed" is another step away from country, which Musgraves' first debut album Same Trailer Different Park was. However, I was not disappointed. Kacey Musgraves decided to leave her western get-up by the door, but kept a southern sweetness to it. Kacey Musgraves shows her range with "Star Crossed". Going from country to pop and still making you feel like you're dancing in the desert in Texas is a big feat for Musgraves.

"Star Crossed" is a story from beginning to end. The album starts with "Star-Crossed", a lyrical story about getting a divorce and the events that followed. The songs are short and sweet on this album and it hugs you in all the right places. The background track to each song perfectly fits with the lyrics, and it makes you feel everything Musgraves was feeling while writing the songs.

The second song in the album is "Good Wife", and it's honestly the best song on the album. It's a song about wanting to be a good companion to your lover and wanting to be the perfect soulmate. This shows Musgraves begging to God to help her be a "Good Wife", but still feeling ill-suited. This is something everyone feels in a relationship and it's what makes this album relatable.

The album takes a break from the romantics and slips into "Simple Times," in which Musgraves admits "being grown up kinda sucks," and reminiscences about the times of "rager/pager" days.

"Simple Times" leads into "Justified" in which Musgraves vocalizes all the feelings about

moving on and moving back into the single life. Musgraves does what she does best with this song, showing the paralyzing mess of mixed emotions. The chorus of "Justified," "If I cry just a little/And then laugh in the middle/If I hate you/Then I love you/Then I change my mind," shares a caution to falling in love next time after this heartbreak.

"Breadwinner" is the 8th track of the album and feels like a homage to Musgraves' earlier song, "High Horse," off her album Golden Hour. "Breadwinner" keeps the disco-ball beat with sparkly cowgirl boots by its side. "Breadwinner" is a song full of poison and makes you think of that one person who is jealous and insecure because you're doing better than them. Kacey Musgraves puts a groovy beat behind her venomous words, "He wants your shimmer / To make him feel bigger / Until he starts feeling insecure." Yikes. After "Breadwinner," Star-Crossed turns to more slow beats with "Camera Roll" which is a guitar driven tearjerker about looking through your camera roll after breaking up. "Chronological order ain't nothing but torture/ Scroll too far back, that's what you get/ I don't wanna see 'em, but I can't delete 'em." The album is a big screw you to her ex and it was the best approach for Musgraves to take.

"Star Crossed" ends with "Gracias a la Vida," Musgraves' version of a Chilean song. Musgraves gives beautiful vocals and ends her album on a light note which the audience was due for.

"Star Crossed" is a beautifully put together album about heartbreak and moving on. If you need a breakup album to scream, cry, or laugh to...Star Crossed is for you.

CAROLINE ES'DORN

