Beat: Entertainment

THE SHAPE OF WATER, Half Fairy Tale And Half Modified Horror Movie

To Be Released on February 21, in FRANCE

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USPA NEWS - THE SHAPE OF WATER is a 2017 American Fantasy Drama Film. The film was screened in the Main Competition Section of the 74th Venice International Film Festival, where it premiered on August 31, 2017, and was awarded the Golden Lion for Best Film in the Competition. It also screened at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival. The film received Praise for its Performances, Screenplay, Direction, Production Design, and Musical Score. Many Critics declared it del Toro's Best Film since Pan's Labyrinth...

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Diected by : Guillermo Del Toro
Produced by : Guillermo del Toro, J. Miles Dale
Written by : Guillermo del Toro, Vanessa Taylor
Distributed by : Fox Searchlight Pictures
Starring : Sally Hawkins, Michael Shannon, Richard Jenkins, Doug Jones, Michael Stuhlbarg, Octavia Spencer
Running Time : 123 minutes
Release Dates : August 31, 2017 (Venice), December 1, 2017 (United States), February 21, 2018 (France)

THE STORY

Elisa Esposito (Sally Hawkins), found as a Child with Mysterious Scars on her Neck, is Mute and communicates through Sign Language. Living alone in an Apartment above a Movie Theater, she works as a Janitor at a Secret Government Laboratory in Baltimore during the Cold War in 1962. Her only two Friends are her next door Neighbor, Giles (Richard Jenkins), a struggling Gay Advertisement Illustrator, and her co-worker, Zelda Delilah Fuller (Octavia Spencer), an African-American Woman who also serves as her Interpreter at work.

The Facility receives a Creature in a Tank, which has been captured from a South American River by Colonel Richard Strickland (Michael Shannon). Curious, Elisa discovers that the creature is a Humanoid Amphibian (Doug Jones) and begins visiting the Creature in secret, forming a close Bond with it....

OUR REVIEW

Sally Hawkins gives a career-best performance as a Mute who falls for a Sea Creature in this ravishing Romantic Fantasy. It is a Beauty and the Beast Fable where both get to be Beautiful and neither has to be Beastly. It is a Tremendous Sensory Experience. Elisa shares her Apartment with Giles (Richard Jenkins) a Commercial Artist and a Gentle, Shy, Gay Man. The Homophobia of the Era has forced him into the Closet and turned him into a Melancholy, Professionally frustrated Alcoholic.

When Elisa tells Giles about the Creature, it takes a while for him to understand that its Plight, and his, are both part of the same Struggle. When Civil Rights Marchers appear on the News, his Instinct is to switch over to a Vintage Musical. Even Michael Shannon´s fearsome Strickland is being ground down by Forces beyond his control, from the Demands of his Military Overseers to his Determination to be seen as a Successful Man.

It appears that in Guillermo Del Toro´s World Reality is the Domain of Rules and Responsibilities and Realism is a Crabbed, Literal-Minded View of Things that can be opposed only by the Forces of Imagination....

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