

'Tall Girl 2' introduces host of new issues

Tangled plot lines make for painful viewing experience

By Karuna Chandran and Madhavi Karthik

Don't you hate it when you see a movie and think, "Wow this is painfully mediocre." Then they make a sequel, leaving you to lose all faith in the future of the entertainment industry. Well, that sums up the Netflix original "Tall Girl 2."

The original movie focuses on lead Jodi Kreyman and her journey to become more confident in herself. The sequel picks up three months after, with her auditioning for the latest school musical and facing the fears that come with putting yourself out there.

The main criticism of "Tall Girl" is Jodi acts as if her height is the end of the world and no one else could ever have comparable problems. We will admit,

however, the sequel attempts to solve the previous problems by focusing on Jodi's social anxiety in relation to her insecurities, which overall was a logical direction forward.

For instance, Jodi is seen experiencing an anxiety attack when feeling agitated about whether or not she can perform adequately as the lead in the musical. It is a significant step in the right direction as many high school students encounter similar issues regarding their mental health.

Although the movie sheds light on the prominence of anxiety among teens, the plot ultimately fails to encompass the resolution of how Jodi comes to terms with her anxiety.

This movie added random characters left, right and center that if taken out would have had no impact on the overall story at all. It almost leaves us missing the mind-numbing simplicity of the original. For example, we have no reason to care that her two friends

are dating, because the movie never gave us a reason to. Sometimes, it feels as if the movie is finally going in the right direction, only for it to once again switch directions. We are dragged from scene to scene, wondering why we are forced to sit through this trainwreck in the first place.

The film also includes not one, not two but three suitors who attempt to pursue Jodi. As the movie focuses on Jodi's romantic drama rather than developing how she tackles her insecurities, the writers detract from Jodi's internal struggles that are ultimately the most relatable aspects of her character and the movie.

The one bright light, the shining star of this entire movie, is Jodi's sister Harper. Her tendency to trail off or entirely forget Jodi's original question is a running gag that feels organic to the plot. We wished this was a movie about

her life instead.

After one and a half hours of our lives down the drain, we recommend saving your Saturday afternoons for literally anything else, whether that is your calculus homework or your 2,000 word essay.



SURFACE LEVEL DEVELOPMENT: "Tall Girl 2" fails to execute social anxiety storyline, the only element worth watching.

'Tall Girl 2'

Genre: Romantic comedy

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