



Demetrius Shipp Jr as rapper Tupac Shakur in a scene from the film *All Eyez On Me*.

Tupac biopic is simply dreadful

Leigh Paatsch
MOVIE REVIEW

AFTER the triumph of the excellent 2015 hip-hop biopic *Straight Outta Compton*, a dramatic take on the short life and incredible times lived by the late, great Tupac Shakur seemed like a no-brainer to get made.

Unfortunately, this soulless, selectively truthful scraping of the story of the pioneering rap genius — shot dead in an unsolved drive-by at age 25 in 1996 — is an actual no-brainer of a movie.

Even hard line fans prepared to concede that 'Pac is too complex and contradictory a figure to ever be truly captured on-screen will be shocked by how far this poorly scripted, dreadfully directed affair misses the mark of the man.

The best that can be said of Demetrius Shipp Jr. — the acting debutant who plays Shakur

— is that he looks the part most of the time. However, he never feels remotely right when it comes to expressing the mercurial (and oft misunderstood) essence of Tupac.

Shipp Jr. isn't the most miscast player here though. That honour goes to the less-than-intimidating dude they found to play Shakur's devious nemesis-mentor Suge Knight. Actor Dominic L. Santana is fat and can frown on command, and that's about it.

So where do we start with *All Eyez On Me*, a movie that never begins to get anything right about its subject?

The first sign that trouble is afoot is how the screenplay comprehensively bungles two of the most fascinating aspects of the Tupac story: the rapid evolution of his forcefully evocative talent as a lyricist, and the aggressively irresistible manner in which he would rap those words out loud.

The best explanation *All*

Eyez On Me can come up with is that 'Pac dabbled in a bit of Shakespeare at high school, and was a quick learner on the job while briefly paying his dues as a minor member of Digital Underground.

In the blink of an eye, Shakur is suddenly a prolific hit-making machine, a movie star and fully-fledged gangsta icon.

The Tupac-For-Dummies approach used here is harmless enough when it is merely skimming Wikipedia for any accessible facts that can be bullet-pointed on-screen.

Much time is spent reminding us that 'Pac was a strictly platonic BFF of former schoolmate and future movie star Jada Pinkett.

We also get the distinct impression Shakur was a bit unlucky with money management, a bit naive when it came to accepting the advances of cool crooks and hot babes alike, and, umm, a bit of dunce not to have thought

twice before becoming frenemies with Biggie Smalls.

However, when *All Eyez On Me* moves into deeper, darker waters concerning Shakur, its unrelenting ineptitude begins to do some real damage to his legacy. While the movie harps on about the moral backbone instilled in him by his blacktivist mother, you'll lose count of the times Shakur does nothing to stand up for his oppressed brethren while they're being beaten up right in front of him.

As for *All Eyez On Me's* handling of the 1993 sexual assault case that put him in jail, the movie's cynical slut-shaming of the woman involved is unforgivable.

This sloppy, spirit-sapping marathon gets increasingly abysmal as it goes along, giving Naomi Watts' *Diana* a serious rival for worst biopic of a pop-cultural megastar in living memory.

■ *All Eyez On Me* is screening at Alice Springs Cinema.

Arthouse film is a 'must see'



Hiroshi Abe stars in *After The Storm*

Picture: SUPPLIED

JAPANESE screenwriter and director Hirokazu Kore-eda is different from many filmmakers. As Brian Tallerico from RogerEbert.com explains, unlike other film auteurs he is more interested in examining "subtle human emotion, typically hinging on family dynamics" instead of going for major plot twists or set pieces.

Kore-eda's latest film *After The Storm* is no different. It tells the story of Ryota (Hiroshi Abe), a former prize-winning author who now works as a private detective, and struggles to pay child support.

When Ryota's father passes away, he starts to spend more

time with his ageing mother Yoshiko (Kirin Kiki), who is moving on with her life. When his sister Chinatsu starts visiting their mother, Ryota suspects she is trying to take advantage of their mother's pension.

He also attempts to find a place back in the lives of his young son Shingo (Taiyo Yoshizawa) and ex-wife Kyoko (Yoko Maki). The film has received good reviews. It has a rating of 96 per cent on RottenTomatoes.com and a score of 84 (universal acclaim) on MetaCritic.com.

■ *After The Storm* is screening at Araluen Arts Centre on Monday June 26 from 7pm.

Films to look forward to

ALICE Springs Cinema has a number of new films coming over the next few months.

Transformers: The Last Knight is sure to get the action-film loving town of Alice Springs excited. It opened yesterday.

Amy Poehler and Will Ferrell will have you laughing in their new comedy film *The House*.

Marvel is back again soon with the much-anticipated *Spi-der-Man: Homecoming*, which is sure to be a blockbuster hit.

Teenage girls all over town are sure to go see the new drama film *Dunkirk*, if just to see a glimpse of their beloved popstar love Harry Styles.

War of the Planet of the Apes will have everyone on the edge of their seats.

FILM & VIDEO CLASSIFICATIONS

THESE RATINGS APPLY TO ALL CINEMA ADVERTISING

G General	PG Parental guidance recommended
M Recommended for mature audiences	MA 15+ Not suitable for people under 15. Under 15s must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian <small>RESTRICTED</small>
R 18+ Restricted to 18 and over <small>RESTRICTED</small>	<small>All films and videos are classified by the Classification Board. Look for the consumer advice which indicates the reason/s for the classification decision. The Classification Operations Branch, Level 6, 2333 Mary St, Surry Hills NSW 2010. Telephone 02 9289 7100</small>

ALICE SPRINGS CINEMA

CARS 3 (G) - NFL

FRI 10:30AM, 1:45PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM. SAT - WED 10:00AM, 1:20PM, 3:50PM, 6:00PM

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 4 (PG) - NFL

FRI 10:30AM, 3:30PM. SAT - WED 10:00AM, 2:20PM

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT (M) - NFL

FRI 10:45AM, 12:40PM, 7:00PM, 8:20PM. SAT - WED 10:15AM, 12:40PM, 6:00PM, 8:20PM

TUBELIGHT (CTC) - NFL

FRI 6:30PM]

ALL EYEZ ON ME (MA15+)

FRI - WED 8:30PM

DESPICABLE ME3 (PG)

FRI 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM. SAT - WED 10:30AM, 12:20PM, 3:40PM, 6:15PM

ROUGH NIGHT (MA15+)

FRI 4:15PM. SAT - WED 4:20PM, 9:10PM

MUMMY (M)

FRI 9:00PM. SAT - WED 3:30PM, 6:25PM

WONDERWOMAN (M)

FRI 12:45PM. SAT - WED 12:30PM, 8:45PM

For up to date movie details, ticketing and all other details:

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