

The Social Network

Two of the best scenes bookend the film: Erica Albright breaking up with Zuckerman and Marlyn Delphy, the youngest lawyer on his defence team, with the shattering quote at the end: "You're not an asshole, Mark."

In the film your sympathies lie with Savarin who appears to be ripped off by Parker and his Silicon Valley associates but they too are only driven by their core drive, the desire for material success.

At the first level Zuckerberg has been described as an intense, gifted programmer whose intelligence and poor social skills make it impossible for him to attain what he wants most: recognition, popularity and a girlfriend. He is seen as a sad but intelligent loser who was fuelled by anger, jealousy, loneliness and alienation, sacrificing the few authentic friendships he had to create something that ended up being great.

The film is about the development of Facebook, the modern phenomenon of our time. There is a beautiful scene in the trailer where, brought before a review panel for crashing the Harvard computer system, Zuckerman argues that they should be thanking him for demonstrating its flaws. Savarin wants Facebook to monetise/sell out immediately by courting advertisers, a move Zuckerberg supposedly rejects as a fatal threat to Facebook's nascent coolness. The hero (?) is Mark Zuckerberg (played by Jesse Eisenberg) and his two foils are Eduardo Savarin (played by Andrew Garfield) and Sean Parker, founder of Napster (played superbly by Justin Timberlake). Savarin is a great Double Checker, Parker is the Hustler extremis, while Zuckerberg is the perhaps the best representation of an Artist I have ever seen on the screen. So, in stages, Zuckerberg creates Facebook, an online world where Harvard students like himself can have the kinds of connections he craves. Great programs are like great poems.

Another wonderful example is the friction between Zuckerman and Savarin about the monetisation of Facebook.