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[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-Z6a287MkA5Q/UbUZKZsrRSI/AAAAAAAAA8/bkL6_GkvBPU/s1600/the-place-beyond-the-pines-free-preview-screenings-131046-a-1364298520-470-75.jpg]

Our Twisted Paths

(The Place Beyond The Pines - Review)

At first I didn't want to soothe my high expectations in any way, nor ridicule or exacerbate my perspective with trailer. My conscience was clear when I entered the story of *The Place Behind The Pines*. Nevertheless, I believed in Derek Cianfrance's talent as a director and writer what is witnessed in marvelous *Blue Valentine*, the movie that made him a shooting star on the cinematographic sky. Once again Cianfrance tapped on co-operation with Ryan Gosling, featuring as the main character, and once again it truly worked out.

The storyline is arranged into three parts which unveil the events of a small city of Schenectady, interweaving the fate of two generations into the plot. In the first part the protagonist Luke, a stunt rider in a traveling circus, discovers that a one-night romance with Romina (phenomenal Eva Mendes) unexpectedly brought him a son. From now on Luke's path becomes twisted, as he strives to be a father and support the family financially. Here the diabolical side of the hero is awoken when he hooks up with Robin (Ben Mendelsohn) and the vicious circle of felonies begins to spin. They rob banks. Luke is not hesitant in his work, the same as unforeseen consequences which inevitably come.

The main role evidently suits Ryan Gosling who perfectly feels the unbalanced nature of Luke. A little psychotic and disdained of emotions, his calmness is like shallow water ready to burst anytime. Gosling himself admitted that robbing banks was his dream and in the movie it comes true.

The tension is built steadily and the feeling of swarming chill of advancing drama is substantially climactic. However, in the second part when main protagonist's fate meddles with Avery Cross (Bradley Cooper) the suspense suddenly drops and audience is entangled into perplexing police affairs concerning unanimous corruption. Cross in the center of criminal dilemma gets intimately involved into Luke's story. At this point Cooper's play appears flawless and persists in this manner until finale.

The anxiety in the movie like open stairs is stepping up with straight intersections, moments of calmness and relief, but then again inescapably reaching the climax and commencing with the meeting of both protagonists' sons in the third part, what seemingly obfuscates the plot, not really far-fetching it but more evidently stretching the narrative in terms of reality claims. Sincerely, Cianfrance reveals his ingenuity and weaves real live into his movies, and the same, making the plot non-schematic and completely out of Hollywood tone, enabling audience to deem about unpredictable fate of life.

The melancholic and momentarily brisk music composed by Mike Patton, engulfs emotions spined with gradually waking tension. And images of Sean Bobbitt revel and suffice the whole, creating another great movie marked by hand of Derek Cianfrance.

The Place Behind The Pines is a story hidden in everyone of us, the place of secrecy, and mysterious pathways of life.

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