Battle of the Sexes Review

* About the famous 1973 tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs.
* Based on a true story
* Written by Simon Beaufoy: Slumdog Millionaire, 127 Hours, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen
* Starring Emma Stone and Steve Carell

Battle of the Sexes is a camel. A smorgasbord of plot lines and social issues sown together with reckless abandon, without any thought as to which undermines what. Like watching someone in an overbooked restaurant follow around the matradee, name dropping ad nauseum in hopes of making a free table manifest.

The trailer boasted a film about a lovable underdog going up against the system, in the form of a winner takes all tennis match against a smooth talking chauvinistic pig, with the very fate of equality on the line. Powerful stuff. Unfortunately, as we wait for this showdown to gear up, we’re forced to watch long drawn-out sequences in which the lovable underdog (world champion at the peak of her prime) spends the movie either leveraging her participation in the sport against a list of pre-performance demands that make Mariah Carey come off as low-maintenance, or cheating on her adoring husband with her hairstylist while he watches and offers his humble assistance. At the same time, we watch as her bigoted opponent (pushing 60-years-old, his training literally consists of sitting by a pool taking hundreds of vitamins per day) desperately tries to win back his wife while battling a crippling gambling addiction. Real David and Goliath shit.

The movie had its good qualities, to be sure. There was a badass movie to be had here, but unfortunately its utter lack of focus and need to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help me god (I think. I don’t know, complete speculation) robbed us of any real satisfaction that could have come with the win.

PERSCRIPTION:

For a better movie by these directors about being accepted for who you are: Watch *Little Miss Sunshine*. \*also starring Steve Carell\*

For a better movie starring Emma Stone and Steve Carell: Watch *Crazy Stupid Love*