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Why Do I Own This?

By Eric Harris

As a huge fan of Paul Thomas Anderson (There Will Be Blood is one of my favorite films of all time), One Battle After Another is easily the most anticipated movie in recent memory. That anticipation coupled with the nearly universal early praise for the film worried me: could this film possibly live up to its expectations? To be brief, yes. But I'll give you the long-winded answer, too.

One Battle is one of those special films that can be entertaining completely at face value, but you can also apply theories to it. The basic storyline of an ex-revolutionary-in-hiding forced to come back to action to try to save his teenage daughter is enough to make the nearly three hour run time feel brief. But there's also a metaphor for parenting in general to appreciate.

The film never stops. An extended prologue introduces us to the French 75, a group fighting against the immigration policies of the country. They attack detention centers and blow up government buildings. This aspect of the story will undoubtedly trigger some viewers, but I promise this is not a preachy film. There are white supremacists and revolutionaries and detained immigrants and that might offend some viewers, but that's also the world we live in, so I don't know why it would. And that's the point of the film, in a way. This world is one battle after another, and things don't change that much. That is why it isn't preachy; it's simply stating that it is what is, and this is a story about people fighting those battles.

Maybe I'm wrong and no one will care (so far, I haven't seen much outrage about the film, but then again, I don't think the people it would anger even know it exists, much less want to watch it). I found the setting effective as it puts the im-

migration crisis in the background of the film as this tense spectre surrounding everyone involved.

Tension is one of the strengths of the film. Leonardo Dicaprio (the aforementioned ex-revolutionary) spends pretty much the whole film flailing and failing to find his daughter. He is constantly moving even though he doesn't seem to be aware of where he is or where he is going at any given moment. That, coupled with Jonny Greenwood's predictably great score, give the movie a constant sense of unease as anything can happen at any moment. But it's also funny because Dicaprio has become so inept and burnt out over the years that he can't even remember the codewords and phrases necessary to get information from his former group. The comedy is the lifesaver of the film, otherwise it would be an exercise in tense misery.

Dicaprio's inability to accomplish much of anything for most of the film presents the metaphorical aspect: parenthood. You don't need to be a parent yourself to understand Dicaprio's struggle in the film. His sole goal is to protect his daughter, but he's unable to both because of his own failings and a world he can't control. That's parenting for everyone, even people who aren't former revolutionaries. You want the best for your children, and you want them to always be safe. But, especially as they get older, things get out of hand. You can't be with your kids all the time, and even if you could be, you can't stop every bad thing from happening to them. But you can try. As the film title states, it's one battle after another.

This wasn't at the forefront of my mind while watching the film, however. It's far too fast-moving and entertaining to give you time to dwell on deeper meanings (all that came later, think-

ing about what I had just seen). It's cliché to call a film a "ride," but it truly is, sometimes literally. There's a uniquely filmed car chase near the end of the film that was one of the best in recent memory, accentuated by the IMAX presentation I saw the film presented in.

One Battle is easily the most action-packed film of Anderson's career, though that's a low bar to top. But it's not just car chases and shootouts. There's a propulsion to the film that Anderson's previous films lack (that's not a dig at his other movies, it's just that his later films are more meandering). Every character in this film is constantly moving to some goal with no time to think about it. The villain of the film, Sean Penn (weirding it up to try to get another Oscar), is like a creepy Terminator constantly moving in on his target.

Penn is equal parts unnerving and goofy, and is likely to gain the most awards season attention. But everyone in this is great. Dicaprio has perfected

his neurotic rageaholic character at this point. Benicio Del Toro provides plenty of comedy as an aloof sensei. Teyana Taylor fully embodies a revolutionary. And Chase Infiniti handles the tricky job of portraying someone both vulnerable and capable.

It all adds up to one of my favorite films of the year. And the more I dwell on it, the more I like it. Perhaps one aspect will put it over the top for me: this is possibly the only film of Anderson's that made me tear up. I'm a sucker for parental stuff in movies these days, but I don't think it's just that. He created this relationship between Dicaprio and Infiniti that feels real. I didn't just want things to work out for them because they were the "good guys" of the story; I wanted these characters to make it because they earned it. Anderson detractors often accuse his films of being cold, but I can't imagine that argument being made for this film.

One Battle After Another lived up to the hype for me. It's 161

minutes of humorous tension, and I immediately wanted to watch it again when it was over. I can't think of higher praise than that.

Eric Harris has been writing about movies since 2009, when he launched his film blog to chronicle his growing movie collection and thoughts on cinema.

His column, "Why Do I Own This?," takes readers through his personal library of films—old favorites, questionable purchases, and new releases he's eager to add to the shelf. With a mix of humor and insight, Eric explores what makes a movie worth owning—and what doesn't.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE Green River Area Development District

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for General Legal Services

The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is seeking proposals to provide professional General Legal Services to the GRADD and its Executive Director.

The RFQ will be available on October 6, 2025, and can be viewed and printed from the Green River ADD website (www.gradd.com), off the main webpage.

The deadline for submitting questions relative to the RFQ is 3:00 pm, CST, on October 27, 2012.

The RFQ deadline is 3:00 pm, CST, on November 3, 2025.

All proposal submittals shall be labeled as follows:

Qualifications for General Legal Services

Joanna Shake, Executive Director
Green River Area Development District
300 GRADD Way
Owensboro, KY 42301

AD

The Dukes Volunteer Fire Department is accepting bids for the purchase of new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs). Mail bids to DVFD C/O Kyle Veach at 655 Hawes Blvd Hawesville Kentucky, 42348. All bids must be marked "SCBA Bid" and received by noon on October 16th, 2025. The Dukes Fire Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bid specification information is available by contacting Kyle Veach at hcem@hancockky.us

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Green River District

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about the most common cancer among women in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, about 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer during their lifetime. Men can also develop breast cancer, though it is less common.

Some of the risk factors for breast cancer include:

- Being a woman
- Getting older, especially over the age of 50
- Family history of breast cancer
- Inherited gene changes such as BRCA1 and BRCA2
- Lifestyle factors such as alcohol use or being overweight after menopause

Early detection and regular screenings can save lives. Preventative measures such as mammograms help detect breast cancer early when treatment is more effective. Women are encouraged to talk with their healthcare provider about the right screening schedule for them.

For more information about breast cancer prevention and screening, visit www.kycancerprogram.org