

Death Railway



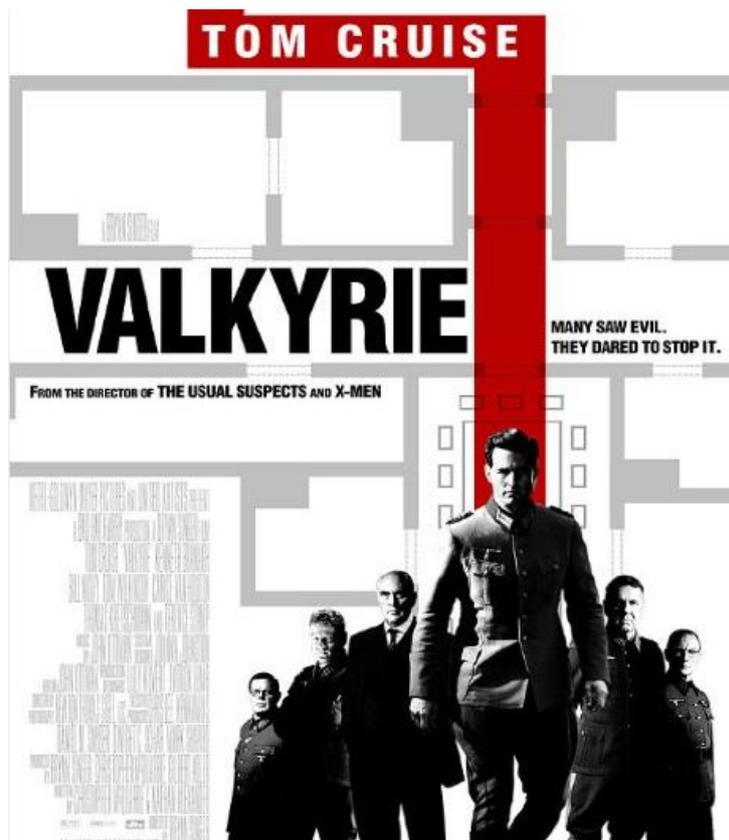
Valkyrie (2008)

(Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh, Bill Nighy & Terence Stamp)

Based on a true story, 'Operation Valkyrie' was the 1944 plot to kill Adolf Hitler by high ranking German Officers within the inner circle. The drama and secretive maneuvering coupled with the political tensions during the 'planning and recruiting stage' is fundamental to this movie. If only this real life drama was successful - imagine how many lives this would have saved by eliminating the cretin of World War two.

View the official movie trailer here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHtCaVtryiE>

The strength of this film released in 2008 was the attention to detail in the sets, props, motor vehicles and equipment - the movie makers do this extremely well. The current day tax office in Berlin is utilised by the movie makers as the parade ground when the German Soldiers form up. In real life this same building was actually Herman Goring's Luftwaffe Headquarters - it survived the war unlike many other German buildings of the time. It is atypical of German style buildings of that era - big, brash, unwelcoming and powerful looking.



Movie Flyer

Death Railway



The former Luftwaffe building (Pic taken by me in 2009)

The story flows smoothly and the dialogue is passionate, deliberate and fast. There is one main plot and lots of characters with their own points of view and decisions to make. Making the wrong decision could cost your life as a traitor and shot on the spot - and remember these are seriously high ranking German officials, many of them Generals and many of them well decorated individuals.

Criticism

The American accents on supposed German characters. The movie starts out with Tom speaking German - then metamorphs into the American Accent. Not having a crack at the Yankee accent mind you - it would have added to the authenticity of the film had Tom et al attempted a German accent - like Liam Neeson did in Schindler's List - everyone in that film had an accent and it added to its air of Europeanism and authenticity. Ok maybe Tom Cruise may have sounded funny with a German accent and it may have damaged the film; its good the film at least started with German so we understand the spoken language is a LOTE (language other than English).

View Points

Tom Cruise is excellent in this film, it is an easy performance to watch - an energetic acting role and he collared it for sure. I think he did justice to the real life Colonel he was portraying (accent aside), he didn't overcook the acting and through the whole film he

Death Railway

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was believable - which sometimes the height challenged Cruise can be short on. The opening salvo with the allied fighter was cool.

Plot Outline

Internal plot to kill Hitler.

Cool Quote from the movie

Henning von Tresckow: You scared me half to death.

Col. Claus von Stauffenberg: You'll be closer than that before we're finished.

Some extra pictures of Berlin taken in 2009:



Outside the German Parliament.

Death Railway



The Soviet Monument in the heart of Berlin – right where Hitler was to build his grand ‘Germania’ Dome – the centre of his structural masterpiece soon to be built. He wanted to rival Paris and other great cities with his artworks. The Soviet General built it here as a spiteful nigger to Hitler and also to represent the hundreds of thousands of Soviets killed in taking Berlin. The locals call this memorial a tribute to the rape victims of Berlin after the war.



A tribute to the 98 murdered Politicians by the Hitler regime outside the Reichstag.