

HICK

USA | 2011 | 99' | Comedy, Drama | Rated R

Directed by

Derick Martini

Written by

Andrea Portes
(from his own novel)

With

Chloe Grace Moretz
Eddie Redmayne
Blake Lively
Rory Culkin
Alec Baldwin

Original Music by

Larry Campbell



Première:

10/09/2011 (Toronto)

Release:

11/05/2012

Trouble travels together.

Budget: \$7.000.000

Gross: \$?

REVIEW

Luli is a 13-year-old girl living with her always drunk parents in a little town in Nebraska. One day she decides to run away, with the goal of reaching Las Vegas, but her road trip will present her with more strange encounters than she had hoped for, putting her in the way of danger more than once...

It's not so likely to find a movie like this one. It is extremely common to find independent movies difficult to understand, or peculiar in their endings, or just out of the classic and clear three-act story pattern, but "Hick" takes advantage of its nature, walking on a string with perfect balance between emotional engagement and objective character judgment. I don't know about the book it's adapted from, but the writer working on his own material is always a great choice, even if lacking cinema experience, and this movie surely relies on its great screenplay.

Its peculiar feature, though incomprehensible at first, of moving through the path literally drawn by the main character Luli is extremely helpful in deciphering her attitude towards life and what she was driven by, since the style of the movie, with a clean and basic directing and a neat photography, doesn't give any clue about that.

Something I did love, though, is the way in which the characters are shown, as I said before giving little judgment but, at the same time, trying to leave them under a sort of veil, omitting the thorniest details of their behaviors and the most violent aspects of their personalities.

This last consideration is extremely helpful in figuring out what the real merit of the cast is. Chloe Moretz, far from her childish roles ("Diary of a Wimpy Kid", where childish doesn't mean negative after all) and most of all far from her scary ones (who knows why she was so often cast for horror movies), gives one of her most mature performances, while being really 13 at the time: her Luli is a girl that had to grow up too soon, in a world she doesn't feel she belongs and where everyone seeks to exploit her young beauty. It was not easy to work on this character, surely it's both her merit and the director's. On the other hand, the characters she runs into are progressively improving: Eddie Redmayne, almost a co-leading character (ironically called Eddie), is slightly too emotional at times, but his psychotic attitude comes in handy dramatically in the last scenes; Blake Lively portrays instead the moody Glenda, on which so much of the story is leant, and the

result is somehow touchy, even if her role in the story gets weirder and more antagonistic towards the end of the movie.

Less to say about Rory Culkin, whose role was so brief that Clement doesn't even give a clear impression if he was to be a positive, neutral or negative character, and about Alec Baldwin, who, pity to say, seems to have something else on his mind; luckily enough, Beau appears for a few minutes only.

"Hick" is not a movie that needs loads of music, if anything because it is mostly helped in the contextualizing act by real songs; in the end, a simple and difficultly assessable work for Larry Campbell, whose contribution is just noticeable a few times.

Extremely undervalued in the critics' opinion, I find it hard to criticize; it's not a work destined to the great majority, I feel that, but something can be learned from this movie and, at least, some sympathy for Luli is just due.

ASSESSMENT	
POSTER	65%
TAGLINE	62%
TRAILER	90%
SATISFACTION	95%
DIRECTING	72%
SCREENPLAY	84%
PRODUCTION DESIGN	78%
CINEMATOGRAPHY	72%
CAST	86%
MUSIC	65%
TOTAL	78% - C+