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Movie Title:
The Founder
8 out of 10

Starring:
Matthew McConaughey
Edgar Ramírez
Bryce Dallas Howard
Corey Stoll
Toby Kebbell
Bill Camp

Writers:
Patrick Massett
John Zinman

Director:
Stephen Gaghan



First a message to Hollywood: I guess the plummet in box office receipts from the 40 to 65 white male demographic has sent a clear message. My guess is that you listened. The last two Hollywood films I have watched were not agenda films, meaning they are not the usual political agenda with a story wrapped around it. They were surprisingly devoid of the usual PC dribble, and I along with 20 to 30 million others appreciate it. It will probably take a little while for you reap the rewards of this change, but hang in there: you have been telling this middle age demographic how bad, mean and stupid they are for a long time. Dumping the PC dribble is a smart business decision, maybe the middle-age white guys will come back to the box office – and even bring their wives or girlfriends.

In Gold, Matthew McConaughey delivers an Oscar winning performance, and the story line is not too shabby. Like a blossoming single malt Scotch, Gold starts out rough and complex; but finishes very smooth. The DP, edits and pacing at the beginning are slightly annoying until you see how the plot twists and realize that it is intentional (if not they should claim it was) and fits the mood of what the script and characters are portraying on the big screen.

The opening shot, of course, is "Inspired by true events," so we know there is artistic license aplenty, and that is acceptable unlike when a film is "Based on a true story or event," when it should be as accurate to the truth as a Swiss watch. Much like the upcoming film Bitter Harvest, it had better be accurate. Gold is loosely based on a story of a similar plot involving actual events. Please do not look up the real events if you do not already know what happened. Watch the film first.

Gold shows the extreme ups and downs of a prospector, but not just any prospector with his pick and mule, but a prospector with geologists, professional core drillers, and high-rise offices. The game is the same, only this is a high-dollar outfit. The film keeps this near and dear to its heart as the story unwinds and characters develop. This is probably the best performance that I have seen from McConaughey. But mind you, McConaughey's role is not a clean, debonair one, but nonetheless a role he plays very well. There are also other great performances brought to the big screen in this film. Bryce Dallas Howard pulls off some very believable and truthful moments in the role of Kenny Wells, the prospector's (McConaughey) girlfriend.

All the major actors did very well with the exception of Edgar Ramirez, whose performance was a bit flat. There is one point in the story set at a conference of prospecting types, and the golden pick is being awarded. There Ramirez tellingly speaks volumes with his eyes. Other than that, his role is not up to par. Either shame on the director or shame on the actor – guess you would have to have been there at the filming to know if his character's falling flat was intentional – or if it was unattainable by a lack of talent. We'll probably never know.

Gold will leave you with a big "I wonder what the hell really happened?" thought to ponder. The DP technical's were OK for the most part, though there were a number of shots that could have been better – they came across as if rushed. Sound technical's were good. I would have probably tried to obtain the rights to Johnny Cash's "Hurt" for one iconic scene and the early credits, and David Bowie's "Fame" for the Wall Street party. See if you agree. Pulling that off might have raised production costs by a million or two, but those songs would have fit those scenes like a glove.

Gold is well worth the ticket price for you and a friend.

Larry Green