

**SOUR GRAPES**  
**--A Critical Review of the Market Community**

.....  
**Week of June 1, 2008**  
.....

Film Reviews of:  
***The Darjeeling Limited, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Kissing a Fool***  
.....

**THE DARJEELING LIMITED**

***(2007)***

***A film by Wes Anderson. Screenplay by Wes Anderson, Roman Coppola, and Jason Schwartzman.***

***Review by Paul Lambrecht.***

With his keen anthropological eye, Wes Anderson follows a trio of brothers on a cross-country train trip through India. Each brother fiercely tries to protect their personal agendas while seeking to mend the rifts between them in the year following the death of their father. Owen Wilson's suicide reject character, Francis, is lobbying hardest for their reconciliation and frames the experience as a spiritual journey. However the other two brothers have a lingering mistrust of him and the second brother, Peter, is very hard put to let bygones be bygones. The most striking aspect of this study of brothers trying to put back together their family is how expressive each character is through their external behaviors. The characters are surprisingly flat in that one's attempts to understand their inner thoughts are deflected by their vacuousness, yet upon further consideration, we find these characters to be certainly as complex as real humans, and stripped of their respective style points, reflect our most inner beings like mirrors.

## **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD**

**(1962)**

***A film by Robert Mulligan. Screenplay by Horton Foote.***

***Review by Paul Lambrecht.***

Definitely a strong performance turned in by Gregory Peck in the role of Atticus Finch. An even stronger performance by Brock Peters as wrongly accused rapist Tom Robinson, the black man whom Atticus Finch must defend from the lynch mob and the only slightly differently comported jury of his peers in Maycomb, Alabama. This film very effectively skewers the Jim Crow south through a lens of the then maturing Civil Rights movement, and eloquently argues for an American hero more in the mold of a Gandhi or a Martin Luther King than a John Rambo, or any other macho ambassadors of our culture.

## **KISSING A FOOL**

**(1998)**

***A film by Doug Ellin. Screenplay by James Frey and Doug Ellin.***

***Review by Paul Lambrecht.***

I rented this one out of spite and fury for James Frey, the disgraced memoirist of *A Million Little Pieces*. This movie is surprisingly not awful even though it is a vehicle for the fizzled-out star David Schwimmer. The framing device of a tertiary character telling the story in retrospect to a couple of fat obnoxious wedding crashers is as annoying as it sounds. David Schwimmer is unconvincing as a soulless womanizer. Jason Lee is slightly more convincing as a put-upon writer. Movies with writer characters are almost always awful. They are not generally portrayed objectively by the neurotic authors they almost always caricature. The

star of this film is Mili Avital, the love interest in the triangle quasi-Shakespearean plot--which features an implausible wager to test her true affections, and claws its way several times out of being prematurely buried with equally implausible twists and turns to get the two people who should be together actually get together.