

Short Review: “Edward Scissorhands” (1990) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Edward Scissorhands (1990). 20th Century Fox, 99 min. Director: Tim Burton.

Producer: Denise Di Novi. Screenwriter: Caroline Thompson. Based on an original idea by: Burton. Cast: Johnny Depp, Winona Ryder, Diane Wiest, Alan Arkin, Anthony Michael Hall, and Vincent Price.

A kindly mad scientist (Price) dies before he can replace his creation's scissorhands with real hands, and thus, his artificial boy Edward (Depp) must go out into this fairytale world with a most unusual handicap. Eventually he is adopted by the Boggs (Wiest and Arkin), and falls in love with their daughter Kim (Ryder). He becomes a talented sculptor and hairdresser. But when he learns that people fear his nonconformity, he returns to his creator's castle to live a solitary life. Like most of Tim Burton's movies, the imaginative visuals and off-the-wall gags overshadow the story's weak structure.

However, the motion picture's message is clearly telegraphed: audience members should embrace everyone's uniqueness, no matter how strange or bizarre.

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