

‘Project Hail Mary’ is a masterpiece

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

Adapted from Andy Weir’s science fiction novel, “Project Hail Mary,” the film directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller is one of the most captivating movies I have seen in a long time. It is one thing for a film to talk about science, survival and connection, but it is another to ground those themes in scenes that land. The opening sequence of this film is one of those moments. Ryland Grace, played by Ryan Gosling, wakes up alone in a spacecraft, disoriented and physically weak, which immediately sets the tone for this film. This opening scene is especially effective because it strips everything down and pulls viewers directly into his reality. Grace’s amnesia forces the story to begin at a human level before expanding into something much larger. The narrative structures itself around the gradual return of Grace’s memory through flashbacks. These scenes could have felt like simple exposition, but instead, they add emotional weight. Seeing him as a middle school teacher makes

his current situation feel more tragic and meaningful, like his purpose is to save those students. I keep thinking about how reluctant Grace is to take on the mission in the first place, which complicates the idea of him as a traditional hero in this film. Traditional heroes are usually defined by choice and courage from the start, but Grace does not fit that mold, which in turn makes his success feel more real and earned. Of course, the film’s most memorable sequence is Grace’s first encounter with the alien Rocky, brought to life with striking visual detail through practical puppetry by performer James Ortiz, enhanced by animatronics and CGI. The introduction of this character could have easily leaned into fear or conflict; instead, it provides a moment of levity that softens the film’s tone. I find the scenes where Grace and Rocky learn to communicate with each other especially compelling. The inclusion of humor in such a dramatized setting makes the film feel more balanced and engaging. The film reaches a powerful turning point when Grace becomes aware of his chance to return home but

ultimately chooses to turn back and save Rocky. That decision is the emotional climax of the film, which I enjoy. In that moment, the story is not about saving Earth anymore; it is about who Grace chooses to be. The film also builds toward a powerful late twist that reshapes how we understand Grace’s journey, revealing that he was drugged and forced into the mission in the first place. The decision to include that twist so late in the film works really well because it completely reframes everything that comes before it. It makes his final choice to turn back to help Rocky feel even more powerful because, for the first time, it is fully Grace’s decision. The ending of the film is especially striking. Instead of returning to Earth, Grace remains with Rocky’s species, teaching and building a life in an unfamiliar world. It is not the ending I expected, but it shows that his purpose is ultimately defined by what he chooses to give, not where he ends up. Having a story that begins with confusion and isolation and ends with connection and meaning feels like the most important resolution the film could offer.



PHOTO | IMDB

One of the movie posters for “Project Hail Mary.”

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The 2019 Masters Tournament, which saw Woods win his fifth green jacket after being a professional golfer for 23 years.

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

The dynasty era of Tiger Woods seems to be behind him, and it is uncertain whether he will regain momentum again in his career. One of the best golf players of all time cannot shake the distractions in his personal life, and that is ruining his legacy expeditiously. On March 27, Woods was involved in a rollover crash in Jupiter Island, Florida. He was arrested for driving under the influence, and unfortunately, this is not the first time. Since 2009, Woods has been involved in a total of four car accidents that all stem from alcohol or speeding. His first accident was in 2009 soon after his cheating scandal started to spread all over the world. This was the first stain in his marvelous career. Phone conversations and voicemails between Woods and his mistresses became public after he crashed into a fire hydrant on Thanksgiving Day. His image was tarnished, as women came out to the press to share their individual

affairs with Woods. He no longer had a wholesome image. Loss of brand deals and sponsors such as Gatorade and AT&T put a damper on his reputation that still lingers after 16 years. The most devastating accident came in 2021, in which he almost lost his leg and career. His last truly defining victory came at the 2019 Masters Tournament, where he won his fifth green jacket in a moment that felt like the comeback of the century. Yet in hindsight, that triumph appears more like a final chapter than a new beginning. There is a broader sense of decline that cannot be ignored. Woods is far removed from his glory days, when he dominated the golf world with his unmatched consistency and confidence. In recent years, his appearances have been sporadic, and his performance has lacked the sharpness that once defined him. His involvement as the co-founder of TGL, Tomorrow’s Golf League, a high-tech, indoor simulator-based golf

venture, reflects both an adaptation to his current limitations and a departure from the traditional competitive stage where he built his name. Today’s generation only hearing about or seeing Woods in the news for scandals is a shame. In a sit-down interview with journalist Charlie Rose in 2016, Woods shared his thoughts on his future after golf. “Here I am, setting up a chapter two without hitting a golf ball, and trying to create a business empire and different business entities and growing that so I don’t have to hit a golf ball,” Woods said. I honestly believe his karma is from cheating on his ex-wife, Elin Nordegren because since then, he has dealt with loss after loss since 2019. With whatever dignity he may have left, it is time to retire for good and become a mentor for his son or other players. There is no doubt that Woods will always be one of the pinnacle players of the golf world, but every legend’s career must end, and in Wood’s case, that end appears to have arrived.

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