The Help

The Help is a magnificent movie made after the utterly successful book Kathryn Stockett. The Help portrayed the disgusting discrimination which occurred throughout the sixties. The film and novel portray the story of a young white woman named Eugenia “Skeeter” with a desire to be a journalist. She started off writing for the Miss Myrna column, answering questions about cleaning, but later on decides her views on white households and black maids have changed, and wants to write a book on stories of these black maids. This is how Skeeter’s relationship between her and two other black female maids, Minny Jackson and Aibileen Clark blooms. Their antagonist, Hilly Holbrook enforces the laws of segregation, controlling the white women in Mississippi through blackmail and threats.

The characters in The Help all have different personalities and views on the segregation and discrimination. Skeeter was one of the only whites, who wanted to know more of black people's views. She asked Aibileen if she would be willing to answer a few questions. In this moment, you saw the fear which black people had to go through in that time. It would be considered a risk for black people to talk about their view on things, having to worry that something terrible would happen to themselves. The movie brought great amounts of emotion and sympathy from the audience as the black maids were treated as garbage, when on the contrary, they did a lot of work for the terrible white moms. The maids were not allowed to use the same toilets as the whites did, they were not allowed to touch hands either as “they carry different diseases than us” as Hilly Holbrook said in front of Aibileen. Seeing the fear in which they had to live in for sharing their opinions or doing “normal things” which were not allowed fills the audience with sympathy for the characters.

Even though The Help portrays the discrimination and segregation around the 1960s perfectly well, it lacks in actual credibility. There are no real historical events to take place in the movie The Help. Aibileen did read some laws out loud during the movie, teaching the audience about some of the ridiculous rules which were there at that time. It also briefly mentions the Ku Klux Klan and how they burnt a black maid’s car but no further detail is given.

It is terrible to think how some people still view upon black people in such a disgraceful manner. Thankfully there aren’t any laws or politics encouraging segregation or discrimination but there are still people out there who judge others by race or religion. Of course this does not happen in such an extreme extent but there are still enough people out there who will insult others by using the N word etc.

In conclusion, The Help is an excellent movie as it is entertaining and gives the audience a feeling of what black people had to go through. It is not a good movie to watch when searching for factual information, concerning events and historically correct dates. It is a real eye-opener on how hard black people had it in the past due to how they look like and is therefore understandable as to why discrimination is a sensitive subject to some as it brings them back to such a low point in history. Such discrimination should be a thing of the past and should most definitely not occur in our modern day society, which The Help helps bring across to the audience. Therefore, I would recommend it if you are interested in watching a movie which gives you the feel of what happened but to not watch it as a documentary kind of movie.