

“The Concept of Tomorrow”

A review of “Sex and the City”

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The meaning seems to evolve as we grow older. Sure, the simple pleasure of sex is still there, if and when we want it. However, perhaps it's wise to be asking ourselves a few more challenging and life-fulfilling questions, especially as the years accumulate behind us.

That's just one message I personally took away from the big-screen version of “Sex and the City.” To put it most simply, and most obviously: We're all growing older. What worked well for us ten years ago, might not be best for us now. And our mission, among all else, is to navigate that continuing journey of personal happiness, while... yes... still making some difficult and sometimes regrettable decisions along the way.

I sum it up by asking: Are we the same people we were ten years ago, and how much have we grown, changed and matured?

A more harsh way of putting it might be: When do we finally learn, or do we ever? Take Carrie and Big: After all these years, she's supposed to know this man. In turn, he's supposed to know her, or so one would think. How on earth could they possibly allow themselves to get to their wedding day, and within minutes of their nuptials, only for it to fall apart like a bad 8th grade date? Read: they're older now, several years have accumulated together. Do they really know each other at all? And just the same, do they really know themselves?

Miranda reacts, in the same icy, closed-off manner she probably did a decade ago, to a man she's supposed to know better than she knows anyone, save herself. Perhaps she does know herself, because she's been behaving in the same hostile, victimized, counter-productive manner for years! So finally, isn't it time for her to look at her life from a different angle, and to look at herself and the role she herself plays in her own problems? Hasn't time taught her anything?

Life couldn't be better for Charlotte. In her younger days, like everyone, she endured her share of trials and errors. And now she has the family she always dreamed of and worked so hard to achieve. While she may be the same, idealistic, seemingly innocent sweetheart she always was, she's grown into a good place of responsibility, love and healthy balance. And in creating the life she always wanted, she was surprisingly blessed with the one thing she thought would not happen: getting pregnant. Be it luck, chance, determination, hard work, or a combination of them all, life can and does fall into place!

Others travel a more uncertain road, and perhaps no one knows this more than Samantha. If anyone is asking herself tough questions in the face of aging, it's she! Samantha is nothing if not

honest, both with herself and with those she loves. Quite simply, the woman has needs, and she knows it! And she knows, even as she rounds the half-century mark, that she cannot settle. It's a risk for any of us to voluntarily throw ourselves back out into the big, lonely world. Then, it takes a strong, confident person to accept that risk. Samantha has grown into herself, now with even more confidence than ever!

And so, the question remains: How much have these women grown, changed and matured? And as we see shades of ourselves in each of these characters, we best ask ourselves the same thing.

No doubt, "Sex and the City" shines in terms of glitz, glamour and classic camp! From Big's "big" real estate purchase, to the endless parade of hats, shoes and fabulous gowns, to the amusingly "gay" one liners and free-flowing cosmopolitans, the production value is everything to be expected. How fun it always was in the series, and equally so in the film, to sit in on the lives of four fashionable, if however flawed, women with seemingly unlimited time and funds!

Some of the story lines, however, left me somewhat puzzled and disappointed. Others made perfect sense.

My biggest question is this: How in the world could Carrie ultimately end up marrying Big, after the juvenile and beyond-ridiculous turn of events that led to the abortion of their oh-so-meticulously planned, not to mention costly, wedding day? Right, it's what SHE wanted, and what he did not. Still, in real life, could any two people really come back from that, forgive one another, and truly build a partnership of trust, love and understanding? I suppose challenge, pain and adversity can bring two people who love each other closer together, but somehow I always thought we all had our limits!

Miranda: Get over yourself already! Did you ever stop to think that you're just as much to blame for Steve's one-time infidelity as he is? There's love, and there are needs, and the latter must be considered for the healthy life of the former. Miranda seemed stuck... stuck, that is, in the same head space she occupied a decade ago. Too bad she apparently was not keeping up with those around her who were growing up. Perhaps, and hopefully, her latest therapy is elevating her to that higher place.

Charlotte's life is picture perfect. After all, someone has to win, and she deserves it. May she, in her sweet, intermittent naiveté, continue to be a positive influence and inspiration on her close friends, and of course, on her children!

On one hand, it might be difficult to understand how Samantha could give up a beautiful man who loves her. But on the other hand, given all things Samantha, it's what she had to do. Good for her, for knowing herself well enough, with the strength enough, to walk forward in life from what could easily have remained a complacent place of comfort.

Through all her lived and self-taught wisdom, Carrie travels a long and winding road of bigger peaks and valleys than many would survive. But she does survive, and perhaps that's most important for others to remember, despite any questions about her ultimate decision.

And ultimately, through thick and thin, happiness and sorrow, these four women toast one another in the same, happy environment they love, connected forever to one another through their respective and shared life experiences.

Are we the same people we were ten years ago? In many ways, yes.

How much have we grown, changed and matured? Quite a bit.

And finally, what role does sex play? Hopefully a more satisfying one than ever before.

Like Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha, we'll continue to ask ourselves plenty of challenging and life-fulfilling questions as our days and our experiences progress. And looking ahead just as they do, the answers will inevitably come to us, welcome or not, through that cosmic and magical, frightening yet exciting, concept known as: Tomorrow.