Defeat yourself, conquer the world
Fight Club Movie Review

By: Nasser Hafezi-Motlagh

Fight Club (1999)
Cast: Edward Norton, Brad Pitt, Helena Bonham Carter
Director: David Fincher

As one of the best David Fincher's movies, Fight Club reminds us who we can be beyond our simple faces and how dangerous the world can be if we give into who we really are. Edward Norton as the narrator tells us a story about strange dilemmas he has been facing because of his demons and was hunted by a man made from his imaginations: Tyler Durden (Brad Pitt).

There is a gradual riddle solving throughout the movie in order to convince the audience that the real Tyler Durden is Edward Norton himself. Firstly, Norton and Pitt start to make an illegal fight club and this club is developed into a terror gang. Finally at the end of the story the wonderful facts start to appear. Actually there is just one Tyler Durden who is the narrator himself.

Maybe at the end, you feel anxious, but be sure, it is intended. Feeling the dangerous schizophrenia makes you uneasy and that is what we expect from a mysterious plot of the Fight Club. Especially, when you find yourself at the border of real and unreal and put yourself in narrator's shoes, when you want to make a decision to continue being what you have been or to become what you always wanted to be. Fincher makes us think about how difficult would be to choose a life as a simple polite employee or a dangerous villain that tries to kill modern life. Consider that the most iconic victim of modern life in this movie is Marla Singer (Helena Bonham Carter), the woman with no plan for future and no philosophy of life.

Tyler Durden is a symbol of each of us with doubt to choose the right face to put up. Usually these different faces are at the different sides of ethics and morality. The basic question here is up to what point we can obey the society and the rules. Maybe the answer to this question leads us to the one of the most dangerous situation that human being try to avoid: Anarchy.

If you want to enjoy moments of thinking about the different possibilities of what human nature and origin can do, I definitely recommend this film to you. Fight Club is based on a simple fact: defeat yourself, conquer the world. The only remained question is what is the cost of this choice? Personally I think Fincher in his films, The Game and Seven, prior to Fight Club, had tried to answer this question.