



Locarno, Cinema Kursaal

18:15

Friday, 16 October 2020

YESTERDAY

2019

112 minutes

Directed by **Danny Boyle**

Starring: Himesh Patel, Lily James, Sophia Di Martino, Elise Chappel, Meera Syal, Harry Michell

Yesterday envisages a world in which aspiring singer-songwriter Jack Malik (Himesh Patel) is hit by a bus at the same time as a freak cosmic glitch plunges the world into darkness. He wakes in a parallel dimension in which the Beatles never existed and he alone remembers their music. Painstakingly recreating the songs from memory, he passes them off as his own. Success is almost instantaneous, thanks to a cameo performance from Ed Sheeran (who has the screen presence of a turnip but is gamely good-natured). But Jack finds himself cynically packaged as a product by his slick new manager (Kate McKinnon, doing her best with a pantomime witch of a role). And he realises, belatedly, that all he really wants is artistic credibility and the love of Ellie (Lily James), the girl who believed in him back when he was average.

Critics' comment

-*Yesterday* may fall short of a fab, but the end result is still a sweetly charming fantasy with an intriguing – albeit somewhat under-explored – premise. (from *Rotten Tomato*)

-At its best [*Yesterday*] invites the audience, along with the characters on screen, to hear some of the finest songs ever written for the very first time. (from *The Washington Post*)

-*Yesterday* is ultimately a romantic comedy, but a conceptually complex one, built on a peculiarly reactionary framework of private life and a culturally conservative pop classicism. (from *The New Yorker*)