

*Moon* is a very different movie about the natural satellite that we all know so well. Whereas most movies about the moon are based on a true story, this movie is an original story created by Duncan Jones. Additionally, as opposed to focusing on the journey to the moon, the protagonist of the film, Sam Bell, spends the majority of the runtime living on the moon. These distinct features of the film help it to stand out among the plethora of moon related films that have been produced over the years.

In order to fully express my thoughts about this film, I'm going to have to talk about a few major plot points. If you haven't seen the film yet, I recommend that you watch it before reading this review. About halfway through the film, it is revealed that there are two Sam Bells. When one of the Sams is injured in an accident and presumed to be dead, the company that operates the lunar base awakens a clone of Sam to take his place. However, the clone quickly finds the other Sam and returns him to the base once he realizes that he isn't dead.

The film's decision to have two versions of the same character on screen at the same time is the best example of *Moon's* visual expertise. I'm not exactly sure how the creators achieved this since there are multiple ways to create this effect, but the results are flawless. Not once did I doubt that both of the versions of Sam were played by real actors even though I knew for a fact that that wasn't the case. Besides this example, I would say the visuals of the film are good, but not incredible. The lunar base consistently looked realistic from the interior, but some of the exterior shots weren't as believable. In terms of the moon itself, I wasn't blown away by its realism, but its portrayal was detailed enough to make me believe that the characters were actually on the lunar surface. The fact that the visuals of the film didn't leave more of an impression on me was rather disappointing. I expected the film to be visually stunning given that it wasn't held back by the restraints of having to portray a true story, but this was not the case. That said, there are a few moments where the film briefly fulfills its visual potential. Early on in the film, there's a shot with the earth in the foreground and the moon in the background, and it is gorgeous. Furthermore, this shot serves as a visual metaphor for the plight of the main character. Though it may seem like he's not that far from the earth when looking at it from the moon's surface, in reality there is an unimaginable distance between him and the people that he loves.

The best aspect of the film is the questions that it raises by having a clone of a real person live and work alone on a lunar base until its health deteriorates and it is replaced. To provide

some context, humans have figured out a way to harvest the energy of the sun that gets trapped in rocks on the moon to provide clean fusion energy to the majority of people on the earth. Sam is on the moon to ensure that everything runs smoothly. From the moment that I found out that Sam had a contract to work on the moon alone for three years, it struck me as extremely strange. This setup makes sense once we realize that Sam is a clone, but its ethics are still very much in question. The primary problem is that Sam believes that he is a real person. He has implanted memories from the original Sam about his life back on Earth, about his wife and daughter who miss him deeply. Sam is unbelievably lonely after spending so much time away from human contact. At several times in the film we see that he has befriended his plants, and he talks to them as if they're real people. Even though Sam is not human, it's inhumane of the executives of the company he works for to let him believe that he is human and still deprive him of some of the basic things that people need to function normally. The logic behind the decision to have clones is clearly profit driven. It's much cheaper to have multiple versions of a person who has the technical expertise required to maintain this operation than to train and send different people to the moon to perform the same tasks. Nevertheless, I believe it was grotesquely cruel to let the clones long to be with people who they will never see again. I think that as long as a clone believes that it's a real person and has all of the emotions of a real person, it deserves the same rights as a real person as well.

Though this film wasn't as visually engaging as I hoped it would be, it told a heartbreaking story of what happens to a person when they realize that all of their dreams and desires are only the imitation of a real person's psyche. Sam Rockwell gave a great performance, especially considering that he is basically the only character in the film, and he has to play multiple versions of himself. Though I don't plan on buying this film, I would highly recommend it to anyone who is a fan of dramas or science fiction.