

Film Title and Release Date: *Head of State* (2003)

Length of Film in Minutes: 95 minutes

Film Genre: Comedy/Satire

Reviewer Name and Grade: Liam F., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: June 5 ,2021

The movie was basically about a black man that was picked by the government because the other two people running for president were in a plane crash. He is from Washington D.C. and is set in 2003 and he is running for the election of 2004. The man is Mays Gilliam who is running. Their plan in the beginning is just to put him out there so the election is a big deal, but they think he will definitely lose, but that isn't the case at the end. The main events that occur in the movie is when Mays is being offered to run for president and when he goes all around the United states to say his part. Another important part in the movie is when he starts speaking from his heart and what he thinks about instead of having scripted speeches and that is when things turn around as the people like what he is saying. A huge main event is the debate at the end of the movie. Personalities of the main characters would be that Mays was a cool character that cared about people having a better life and cared about everyone and wanted to make sure everyone was satisfied. He uses a different method to attract the audiences, but it works out. Mitch Gilliam is his brother where he really speaks his mind and is pretty aggressive as he is used for the comical character of the movie as he is going to be the vice president and barely even knows some stuff and he is a good character as he motivates his brother, Mays for the election and to speak his mind. There's also Debra and Martin who help out Mays with his campaign because they have to at first, but then later on they help out because they want to and they believe he will do good. Lisa Clark is also the leading up girlfriend of Mays and she gives him encouragement and has a good bond with Mays, so it creates a good relation with her and Mays that affects the movie with him having motivation.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc)?

I found the film by casual browsing and looking at the comedy section and it caught my eye.

Did the plot keep you interested?

Yes, the plot did keep me interested as I was curious on how he would make his campaign work and how he would persuade the people to vote for him and win the election.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

It was a tad slow at the start and I wasn't that intrigued at first, but it picked up once the government told Mays that he would be running for president.

What grade(s) levels is this film appropriate for?

I'd probably say this is appropriate for teenagers as it is PG-13 and it does have some profanity, but it's not too bad and I'd say it's for teenagers and up.

3 stars-

It had some weird editing and transitions at times or just a few scenes that could have been deleted. It was a pretty silly movie, but it's Chris Rock, so you're basically expecting that. I think it did good with being like a satire comedy film based on American politics and made it a fun ride. The acting was also a tad off at times, so it could have been better in that area, but for a comedy satire film, it did a pretty decent job. Chris Rock was solid as usual though with his comedy and acting. Also him being one of the writers was cool as well.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen V., 10th Grade

Date Reviewed: July 8, 2021

Head of State is a political comedy film directed, written by, and starring the hilarious Chris Rock. The film focuses on Mays Gilliam, an alderman for the 9th Ward in Washington, D.C.. After finding out he will soon lose his job and girlfriend, Gilliam is unexpectedly named as the Democratic candidate in the 2004 American presidential election. The movie explains this plotline by showing how the party's original presidential and vice-presidential candidates died in a plane crash and how Gilliam is seen as an American hero for saving a woman from an explosion. This plot was interesting because the audience gets to see how the main character deals with the new changes that come with being a presidential nominee. In the beginning of the film, Mays feels immense pressure and believes he will not be able to succeed as President. He also feels a huge responsibility in representing the entire African-American population and hopes his reputation is not tarnished. However, after seeking advice from his brother and speaking his mind in what he believes in, his popularity spikes in polls. At the end of the film, Gilliam makes his brother his vice president running mate, and the two end up successfully winning the presidency.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?

I found this film on Kanopy by casually browsing the movies it offered.

Did the plot (for fictional movie) keep you interested?

Yes, I really enjoyed the plot because it went into how the main character navigated large changes in his life and ultimately turned his life around.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

I believe the pace of this film was just right because they spent ample time developing the plotlines and its characters.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

I believe this film is appropriate for grades six through ten, due to the comical events that transpire throughout the movie.

5 stars: I'm really glad I watched this film; it was awesome!

I thoroughly enjoyed this movie because it was unlike any other I had ever seen. I think Chris Rock did an amazing job in this movie and appreciate his work as a director, writer, and actor. By incorporating many comical and heartfelt scenes throughout the film, Rock truly employs a captivating film of a man turning into the head of state.