

JIM Reviews = “THE SOLOIST” – Alone on MANY different levels

Submitted by jimchudnow@sbcg... [1] on April 21, 2009 - 11:56pm

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“THE SOLOIST” – Alone on MANY different levels =
Rating: 8 of 10 stars.

(Per an advance preview:) JAMIE FOXX does a fantastic job playing a homeless guy in Los Angeles who was once a gifted musician at Julliard who later developed various schizophrenic & emotional problems as he wanders the rough streets. This film tells the true story of how a local newspaper columnist (finely played by ROBERT DOWNEY JR.) chances to meet Foxx, writes about his story, and his many efforts to try to make life EASIER for him— by encouraging him to return to playing the cello, to find a safer and better place to live and to interact with other homeless people. Because of the difficulties inherent in Foxx’s psyche, his ramblings & recurrent departures from reality, Downey has a frequently tricky and demanding time in dealing with him and others in his life (including his ex-wife & co-worker CATHERINE KEENER). The film effectively portrays the young Foxx, his growth and his later descent into a life filled with problems. It’s not always easy to deal with, but it’s uplifting seeing the progress that the homeless and otherwise disadvantaged can make.

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