

Film Review: Robert Pattinson Drains Life From Misguided ‘Bel Ami’

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on June 22, 2012 - 11:15am

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Rating: **2.0/5.0**

CHICAGO – Robert Pattinson is such a divisive actor. While he’s clearly one of the most popular young stars in the world thanks to his work in the “Twilight” films, he has yet to prove to most people that he can really act. While some who have seen David Cronenberg’s upcoming “Cosmopolis” claim that this will be the film that finally allows Pattinson to break out of the franchise that has defined him, we’re stuck with something far lesser for now, the misguided and depressing “Bel Ami,” a film that does nothing to help the critical reputation of the man otherwise known as Edward Cullen.

The problem is that I somehow want to defend Pattinson. I think there’s something there. Cronenberg is one of the smartest men in filmmaking and he saw something in this brooding young actor. And so what’s the defense for this mess? He was in over his head and was miscast from the beginning. It’s not his fault that he got thrown into the deep end with more talented swimmers and drowns in this misguided costume drama.



[Read Brian Tallerico’s full review of “Bel Ami” in our reviews section.](#) [11]

“Bel Ami,” based on Guy de Maupassant’s second novel, is a tale that requires a charismatic, fascinating lead. And Pattinson doesn’t work as the manipulative cad that this story demands. It doesn’t help that his character arc requires him to not only seduce but get emotionally entangled with truly charismatic actors like Uma Thurman, Kristin Scott Thomas, and Christina Ricci. It’s hard to believe any of them would give Pattinson a second glance.



[Continue reading for Brian Tallerico’s full “Bel Ami” review.](#) [11]

“Bel Ami” stars Robert Pattinson, Uma Thurman, Kristin Scott Thomas, Christina Ricci, and Colm Meaney. It was written by Rachel Bennette and directed by Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod. It opens on June 22, 2012 and is currently available On Demand. It is rated R.



Bel Ami

Photo credit: Magnolia Pictures

Source URL (retrieved on Apr 18 2024 - 8:59am):

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