

A Look at “The Jedgar”

By Mary Ellen Graybill

Clint Eastwood is known for his last supernormal movie, “Hereafter” and Leonardo DiCaprio known for his last portrayal of a patient on “Shutter Island” in a scary and subtle movie directed by Martin Scorsese.

So, it’s no surprise that in the recently released Warner movie, “JEdgar,” Eastwood directs DiCaprio in an almost paranormal experience for a movie goer. The viewers are treated to a mind-boggling array of real life events. Eventually, it is clear that Hoover, the former Director of the FBI in a time when public figures were sheltered in their private lives, is an egomaniac for power, both vengeful and misled. He starts out seemingly ordinary, soft-spoken and possessed with what looks like patriotism.

Judy Dench as Anna Marie Hoover provides a key pivoting point for a look at Hoover’s personality. She is smothering and seductive, and yet supportive and affectionate.

Overall the effect of several “goofs” within the film itself makes it seem like this is a movie along the lines of “Shutter Island” for DiCaprio. Knowing the talents of Ron Howard and Eastwood in directing, it seems possible that certain “goofs” might have been deliberate. An example is one “goof” when, during a scene in which Hoover’s mother tries to teach Hoover to dance, she puts her son in the position of following her, not leading.

As Hoover, he keeps secret files on important people, has no real friends except his male associate and partner, and another “alien” to the human race, his secretary, who adheres to his wish to destroy all paper evidence when he dies.

All in all, it’s easy to know why the movie is described on www.famousmonstersoffilmland.com as a horror movie!