

Film invites unbiased viewing

w Lindsey Liese
Focus Editor

Many people see movies merely for the entertainment value, but once in a while, you walk out of the movie getting so much more than expected. *Brokeback Mountain*—a four-syllable title that has people jumping the gun with their own interpretation of what it is about. Most likely, many know its as a “gay cowboy movie,” over-simplifying a beautiful love story, probably the most amazing one I have ever seen, one that just so happens to revolve around two male ranch hands.

Truthfully, “that gay cowboy movie” is how I referred to *Brokeback Mountain* before I actually saw it. I feel terrible about it now, and the only real explanation I have is that when you have not yet experienced something for yourself, sometimes you feel you just have to follow what other people say.

In a recent interview with Jay Leno, one of the stars of *Brokeback Mountain*, Jake Gyllenhaal, actually told of how a reporter came up to him and actually apologized for calling BBM a “gay cowboy movie.” Anyone who has seen this movie, whether they liked it or not, knows it is so much more than that.

Many people bashed the movie before even seeing it on the basis of its subject matter. It has been banned in both Utah and West Virginia, both traditionally ultraconservative states. It’s a shame that people won’t even see the movie before coming to a conclusion; it really is an outstanding movie.

As teenagers, very few of us are prone to make choices on our own. Our faith, prejudices and way of life are pretty (for majority of us, I’m sure) much determined by the influences in our lives. If you can’t handle the peer (or parental) pressure and make your own decisions regarding this movie, wait until March 7 to see it on DVD. Watch it by yourself and go in with an open mind. There is no point in seeing it if you already have your mind made up that you are going to hate it.

I honestly believe that this movie will have some sort of an effect on you. It already changed America as I knew it. The fact that a love story revolving around two “men’s men” can win a Golden Globe Award for Best Picture and be nominated for an Academy Award it definitely signals a more accepting America. Although some may be critical of this picture, it can’t be that terrible if it was nominated for seven Golden Globe awards and won four of them.

I didn’t walk into the theater prejudiced; nevertheless, I did walk out of it with a changed sense of self. Why? For me, *Brokeback Mountain* is one of the greatest epic love stories ever told onscreen. The fact that it had to do with two men was only half of the story.

