

# MOVIE REVIEW:

## Killers of the Flower Moon

By **Andrews McLellan**  
entertainment editor

Director Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon," is a true crime movie that dives deep into one of the most chilling and overlooked chapters in American and Indian history. Based on David Grann's non-fiction book, this film is an honest and descriptive portrayal of the Osage Indian murders in the 1920s. In this movie Scorsese weaves together elements of history, suspense, and human drama into a three and a half hour masterpiece.

Set in the backdrop of the burgeoning oil industry in Oklahoma during the Roaring Twenties, Scorsese's screenplay and videography takes a journey back in time. The film's attention to detail, from the era-accurate set designs to the authentic costumes, is what really brings this movie together. The cinematography, courtesy of Rodrigo Prieto, captures both the highs and lows of this time period and makes the viewer feel like they are truly in the setting.

At the core of "Killers of the Flower Moon" is the Osage Nation, a Native American tribe that, after being forced off of their previous land, discovered a great amount of oil beneath their Oklahoma territory. Overnight, they became some of the richest people on the planet. The film dissects how their newfound affluence became a source of jealousy and greed,

leading to a series of mysterious deaths among the Osage. Throughout the narrative, Scorsese has consistently emphasized the diverse approaches to storytelling.

Some Natives met their end through gunfire, while others perished in explosive incidents, and a different set of victims succumbed to an enigmatic wasting ailment, which likely resulted from poison. This period is commonly referred to as the "Osage Reign of Terror," a rather perplexing label that erroneously suggests the Osage bore some responsibility for the atrocities inflicted upon them.

The history of the Osage people is marked by both resilience and tragedy. The Osage Nation has endured and remains a federally recognized tribe in the United States. They have their own government, with a principal chief and tribal council, and they continue to maintain their cultural traditions and language. Today, the Osage Nation continues to be an integral part of Native American history and culture in the United States.

Oscar-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio takes on the role of Ernest Burkhart in the film. Burkhart is a white man who marries into the Osage tribe and finds himself in between two sides of a murder case. DiCaprio gives an absolutely amazing performance as Burkhart, offering a portrayal of this morally conflicted character who is in love but

primarily motivated by money. He displays the inner thoughts of a man torn between loyalty to his family and the Osage community, and his own ambitions. His co-star, Lily Gladstone, plays the role of Mollie Burkhart, Ernest Burkhart's wife. Gladstone's performance of a woman seeking justice for her family is incredibly powerful. Robert De Niro takes on the character of William Hale, a figure in the Osage murder conspiracy. De Niro's performance is spine-chilling and showcases his unmatched ability to completely transform into any character. Jesse Plemons, too, deserves recognition for his portrayal of Tom White, an FBI agent tasked with solving the case. Plemons plays his role with a sense of drive and purpose, making his pursuit of the truth a driving force in the narrative.

"Killers of the Flower Moon" is not merely a crime drama; it is a powerful examination of racial prejudice, exploitation, and the early days of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The film raises critical questions about the victimization of Native Americans, even when they possessed immense wealth. It sheds light on the racism that prevailed at the time and the corrupt alliances that allowed the murderers to escape justice. Scorsese's direction is absolutely perfect in its storytelling. He weaves together an intricate narrative that keeps the audience engaged throughout the film's

duration. The pacing allows for a must see experience that enables viewers to delve deep into the characters and historical context. The musical score, composed by the late Robbie Robertson, enhances the atmosphere with its haunting melodies that mirror the disquiet and suspense of the story. Robertson composed all 21 songs on the movie's soundtrack.

"Killers of the Flower Moon" is an unflinching exploration of a dark period in American history. It forces the audience to confront some of the grimmest aspects of the past while providing a glimmer of hope through the pursuit of justice. The film is a testament to the power of cinema in shedding light on the forgotten stories and struggles of marginalized communities.

This cinematic triumph combines exceptional performances, breathtaking visuals, and a gripping narrative all into one final product. This movie serves as a reminder of the significance of acknowledging our history, no matter how painful, and the necessity of seeking justice for all. This movie is a must-see for anyone interested in American history or for anyone who wants to be emotionally moved. This on-screen portrayal of a forgotten chapter in history serves as a testament to the enduring power of cinema. The movie, "Killers of the Flower Moon," will undoubtedly stand the test of time.

