



Film Review

28 Years Later:

THE BONE TEMPLE

By Duncan Forbes



28 Years Later: The Bone Temple is the follow-up to Danny Boyle's 2025 apocalyptic epic. Directed by Nia DaCosta, it follows Dr. Kelson (Ralph Fiennes) and Spike (Alfie Williams), as they continue to navigate a world ravaged by the Rage virus, and contend with a dangerous cult led by the insane Jimmy Crystal (Jack O'Connell).

28 Years Later, the belated 28 Days Later threequel, was a rousing success; a worthy successor to the highly-regarded original, with fantastic performances and gorgeous cinematography. *The Bone Temple* continues this trend, and while it isn't quite as visually exciting as last year's instalment, it's still a treat for the eyes.

As the second film in an intended trilogy, the story is somewhat limited, with less progression than in *28 Years Later*. Still, the relatively self-contained plot is great in its own right. Alfie's ordeal as he is rather forcefully inducted into the cult of the Jimmies is gripping and harrowing, and Kelson's deepening connection to the "alpha" infected Samson (Chi Lewis-Parry) is by far the best part of *The Bone Temple*. Nia DaCosta's career has been hit-and-miss so far, but she comes into her own here,



continuing what Danny Boyle started in *28 Years Later*, but making it her own, with a less frenetic visual style and a more languid pace. That may disappoint some after *Years*, but it is to the film's betterment. Alex Garland's script is excellent, perfectly continuing the intriguing world-building and moral contemplation that he began in the first movie.

The cast continues to impress, with young Alfie Williams not getting as much to do here as he did in *Years*, but still delivering a solid performance.

Chi Lewis-Parry, conversely, has a much bigger role in *The Bone Temple*, and does a fantastic job with almost no dialogue. Ralph Fiennes is predictably excellent, delivering a layered and highly entertaining performance that is his best since *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. The star of the show, however, is Jack O'Connell as the diabolical Jimmy Crystal. Following on from his incredible role as Remmick in last year's *Sinners*, he has solidified himself as one of the 21st century's best character actors.

Tonally, *The Bone Temple* is very different from *Years*, with much more gore, and a surprising amount of humour, which actually lands very well. All in all, the *28 Years* trilogy is shaping up to be one of the best of the 2020s, with a rock solid second instalment. All eyes now are on the final film, whenever it may get made.