



The House That Jack Built– Review

Boundary-pushing cinematic visionary Lars von Trier returns with one of his most daring, masterfully provocative works yet, *"The House That Jack Built"*. Mixing pitch black humor, transcendent **surrealism**, and renegade musings on everything from history to architecture to cinema, von Trier fashions a radical, blazingly personal inquiry into violence, art, and the twin acts of creation and destruction.



Set in Washington in the 70s and 80s, the story spans 12 years and depicts five **random** incidents that marked the long serial killing life of Jack (Matt Dillon), a wealthy **engineer** and a psychopath with severe OCD, who got famous as Mr. Sophistication. The nickname was earned at the expense of inventive **atrocities** inflicted to his victims, whom he photographed stylishly to fill the media's first pages. In truth, this man is an art lover who turns his crimes into repulsive art forms. He possesses a **salient narcissism** that becomes uncontrollable whenever he feels humiliated. David Bowie's "Fame" often accompanies the post-crime scenes in a way to intensify his sense of **swaggering** accomplishment.

The **morbid** occurrences are sequenced with occasional flashbacks showing Jack's propensity for evil as a child, as well as voice-over conversations with Verge (Bruno Ganz), an imaginary character who appears by the end to show him to the gates of the hell where he belongs.



Although fun-filled, the incidents are uneven and decrease in force with time. The first of them, featuring the irresistible Uma Thurman, is the one that stays longer in the memory.

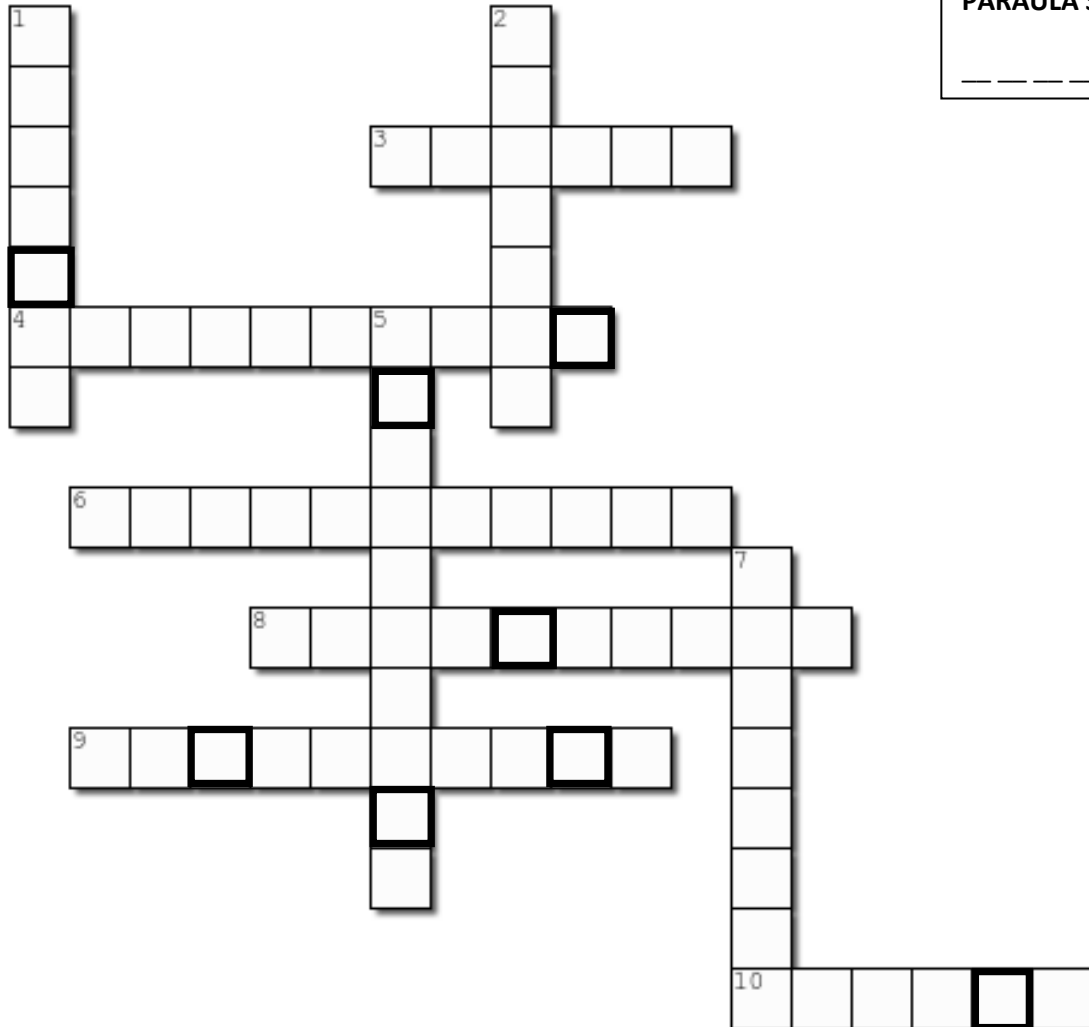
Dark humor and stinging **sarcasm** are added in a tale that can be hilarious one minute and gruesome the minute after. You'll need a strong stomach to digest the shocking secrets Jack has to unveil, a disturbing character whose obsession and impulsiveness will destroy him at some point. While Matt Dillon is insanely convincing in his performance, Von Trier obtains an extravagant blend of horror and humor from the **monstrosity** of his character.



The House That Jack Built – Crossword

GUANYA 2 ENTRADES GRATUÏTES AMB EL CINEMA ESBARJO I CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL

- 1) Completa els mots encreuats amb el vocabulari de la crítica.
- 2) Reuneix les lletres de les caselles en negreta i forma la paraula secreta.
- 3) Sigues el 1er en publicar la paraula al Facebook de Cambridge School www.facebook.com/CambridgeSchoolPage i guanyaràs 2 entrades per a una pel·lícula en VO al **Cinema Esbarjo de Cardedeu** (a recollir al mateix cinema).



PARAULA SECRETA:

ACROSS

3. Showing a strong interest in subjects such as death that most people think are unpleasant
4. an extreme interest in your own life and problems that prevents you from caring about other people
6. something large and ugly
8. to walk in a proud and confident way
9. cruel and violent acts
10. chosen without any particular method, pattern or purpose

DOWN

1. something that is especially noticeable or relevant
2. the act of saying or writing the opposite of what you mean
5. 20th century style of art and literature that tried to represent dreams and unconscious experience using unusual combinations
7. someone who designs or builds things such as roads, railways, bridges or machines



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