

# FLIGHT DECK

*Critique Analysis*

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## LOST WORLD 2020

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★★★★★

# Critical Analysis

*Lost World 2020* by Mitra Mazumder is an evocative, poetic exploration of isolation, humanity, and the fragile connections that bind us all, set against the backdrop of one of the most turbulent periods in modern history: the 2020 lockdown. The film isn't just a story—it's a deeply philosophical meditation on identity, societal failure, and the intrinsic bond between humans and nature, which, in the name of progress, we have so recklessly severed. Mitra Mazumder's ability to blend realism with surrealism creates a hauntingly beautiful narrative that lingers long after the credits roll.

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The journey begins with the nameless “Oldman,” played with quiet gravitas by Dipendra Nath Bhattacharya, answering a mysterious call that draws him out of the confines of an old-age home. His departure into the unknown feels almost mythic, like the call of a hero in an epic tale. But instead of embarking on a journey of triumph, he ventures deeper into a decaying world—a forest that symbolizes both sanctuary and entrapment. It is here that the film’s true soul emerges, as he meets a motley group of individuals who, like him, have been displaced by the societal upheaval triggered by the lockdown.

Each character the Oldman encounters serves as a mirror reflecting different facets of human suffering and systemic neglect. Nandini Biswas’ portrayal of the

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Baby Boy, whose innocence is tinged with confusion and vulnerability, offers a stark contrast to the jaded and weary Migrant Worker, played by Ajoy Dutta. The Thief, Teenage Boy, and Prostitute round out this group, each embodying the pain of homelessness, identity loss, and moral compromise. Through their interactions, Mazumder lays bare the hypocrisies and failures of modern society, showing how easily those on the margins are discarded when systems fail.

What struck me most was the profound symbolism woven into every frame of *Lost World 2020*. The forest itself becomes a character, a labyrinth of shadows and light that mirrors the uncertainty and fear these individuals face. It is both a place of isolation and a womb of rebirth, where the boundaries between nature and humanity

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blur. The recurring imagery of the disappearing environment and living creatures underscores one of the film's central themes: the relentless march of development at the cost of the natural world. By showing a world where not only humans but the environment itself begins to vanish, Mazumder paints a harrowing picture of a future where progress comes at the ultimate price.

Thematically, the film is a masterful critique of societal constructs. The characters' conversations reveal the raw underbelly of a world built on inequity and exploitation. The Oldman, in particular, becomes a conduit for exploring the isolation of the elderly, a demographic often overlooked in narratives of crisis. His journey through the forest mirrors the psychological labyrinth many faced during

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the lockdown—forced to confront themselves, their pasts, and the fragility of the systems they once relied upon. The “path of infinity” that the characters ultimately take feels less like an escape and more like a transcendence, a surrender to the forces of nature and the universe that exist beyond the artificial constraints of society.

Mitra Mazumder’s directorial choices amplify the film’s emotional resonance. The wide 2.35:1 aspect ratio captures the vastness of the forest, making the characters appear small and vulnerable within it, while the intimate close-ups draw us into their emotional worlds. The use of digital filming enhances the film’s immediacy, making the forest feel alive and almost sentient. The dialogue is spare but impactful, layered with philosophical

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undertones that invite the audience to reflect on their own place in a world teetering on the brink of collapse.

Perhaps the most striking element of *Lost World 2020* is its ability to blend the abstract with the tangible. The characters' journey through the forest is both literal and metaphorical, a representation of humanity's collective struggle to find meaning in the face of chaos. The final image of the characters crossing into infinity, where nature and the universe become one, is a poignant reminder of what we stand to lose if we continue to ignore the interconnectedness of all life.

Mitra Mazumder's debut feature is nothing short of extraordinary. Her ability to weave complex social commentary with surreal, almost dreamlike storytelling marks her as a filmmaker to watch. *Lost World 2020* is

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not just a film—it's a wake-up call, a plea for humanity to reconnect with itself and the world around it before it's too late. It is a film that challenges, inspires, and, above all, reminds us of the power of cinema to illuminate the darkest corners of our existence.

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