



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

THE LAST SHOWGIRL (15)

Director: Gia Coppola

Starring: Pamela Anderson, Jamie Lee Curtis, Brenda Song, Kiernan Shipka
US, 2025, 1 hour 28 minutes, English

A decade on from her feature debut, *Palo Alto*, that felt at times underdeveloped and listless, Coppola presents us with rich and intense performances, particularly from Anderson who embodies the role with ease and compassion.

And yes, Gia Coppola is part of *that* family. She is niece to Sofia and granddaughter to Francis Ford. Where Francis largely told men's stories, Gia follows in the tradition of her aunt, but with a less removed, more intimate sensibility that shines with empathy.

Anderson, who has made only three narrative films in the last two decades (previously 2005's *Stacked* and 2015's *Connected*) has had quite a whirlwind comeback since her documentary *Pamela, A Love Story* (2023). Once famous for her outrageous sex kitten aesthetic, she has rebranded with a make-up-free face and quiet home life, more interested in sharing vegan recipes and focusing on her activism than on performing publicity stunts with rock stars. It therefore feels gently nostalgic to see her back as a blonde bombshell, albeit more inhibited and quiet than we used to see Ms. Anderson. Perhaps this is, therefore, the ideal marriage of character and actor at just the right time in her life. So much so, in fact, that both director and star unknowingly tried to convince the other that this was the right fit, before realising these acts were unnecessary: "*When we talked, she was selling herself to me and I was like, 'No, no. I want you to do this project. I'm trying to sell myself to you.' It cut all the fat and we were able to execute straight into the project*" (Gia Coppola).

A breathy, vulnerable performance contrasts exquisitely under weighty, elaborate costumes. For a showgirl's last hurrah, this is quite the flourish into a third act.

Quotes from Interview Magazine.

Notes compiled by Sarah Nicol (Community Engagement Coordinator)

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