



FILM: **A FISH CALLED WANDA**

FDG RATING: 4.1 ☺☺☺☺○

Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

Charles Crichton: *director*
John Cleese: *screenplay writer*
Jamie Lee Curtis: *actress, Wanda*
Kevin Kline: *actor, Otto*
John Cleese: *actor, Archie*

DATE: January 21, 2021

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **A FISH CALLED WANDA**

Almost anyone who has ever watched the 1988 film, *A Fish Called Wanda*, can remember laughing out loud and probably has many funny scenes imprinted on their memory. Seeing it again in 2021, it has not lost its humor which makes it a timeless, classic, heist comedy. Directed by Charles Crichton and written by John Cleese, the stars Jamie Lee Curtis, Kevin Kline, as well as Michael Palin are memorable as a gang of diamond thieves who double-cross one another to find stolen diamonds hidden by the gang leader. A barrister, Archie, (Cleese) becomes a central figure as femme fatale Wanda (Curtis) uses him to locate the loot.

We loved the Jaimie Lee Curtis character, Wanda, who was so scheming, seductively manipulative but then turned helplessly infatuated when a man spoke a foreign language. Kevin Klein as Otto, the weapons expert, was riveting hilarious. John Cleese was perfect. Terrific performances and quirky characters in a continuous sequence of perfectly timed miss-steps set to the pace of a 1930s screwball comedy. All of our favorite funny scenes are too numerous to describe and descriptions wouldn't do them justice. Many of us thought the film was even more hilarious this 2nd time around, but a few resident reviewers didn't appreciate the humor. As one astute reviewer pointed out, a lot of the humor was in bad taste such as Ken, a gentle animal lover who stutters and ends up running over a dog, and Otto who tormentingly eats Ken's pet gold fish. Another commented that humor can go too far. Another thought the film was a waste of time and talent.

Despite a few half-hearted scores, *A Fish Called Wanda*, collected a swimmingly cumulative 4.1 on our scale of 1 to 5. 5 is the best.



See you at the movies!

Adriane Dedic, adedic@pacbell.net

www.filmdiscussiongroup.com