PRODUCTION
Film Discussion Group

CAST Bay Area Film Enthusiasts

LOCATION
Mission Coffee
151 Washington Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94539

DATE Meet Monthly
Sunday evenings

TIME 6:30 pm

FILM: **A QUIET PASSION**

FDG RATING: 2.4

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

Terence Davies: *Director*
Cynthia Nixon: *Actress, Emily Dickenson*
Jennifer Ehle: *Actress, Vinnie Dickenson*

DATE: June 18, 2017

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **A QUIET PASSION**

When we selected A Quiet Passion, we had the impression that Emily Dickenson led a pretty isolated life and wondered what exciting insights we would discover. Cynthia Nixon played the reclusive poet perfectly. The dimly lit interior shots were very realistic, the costumes were fantastic, and most important, we could hear the beautiful lyricism of Dickenson's poetry as she recited the words inspired by events in her life in each scene. But there was no excitement. One resident reviewer observed that the story was missing the pivotal elements that turn a life study into an engaging plot.

We watch a finely detailed portrait of a witty, gifted poet whose brilliance was not recognized until after her death. Her entire world was her family which restricted the action of the film causing some reviewers to feel that the story dragged. And it was difficult to feel empathy for the main character who as she aged, she grew more cranky, critical and impatient. Emily had a difficult life suffering from illness and later seizures. She is lonely, and longs for love but seems to console herself with the knowledge that solitude would be far preferable to a poor match. At other times, she bemoans her physical plainness and the spinsterhood for which she seems destined.

The film is well done providing insight into the life of an important poet. The rhythmic, stilted style of each character's speech sounds like the recitation of poetry. But for some of our reviewers, the production seemed more like a vignette for the history channel. Perhaps, a better way to appreciate the poetry of Emily Dickenson is to just read or listen to the poems. Brimming with pathos and lacking excitement, the film was exactly as titled, a quiet passion.

We gave the film a somewhat quiet score of 2.4 or a scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)

See you at the movies!

Adriane Dedic, adedic@pacbell.net

Film Discussion Group (FDG) organizer