



FILM: **ANNETTE**

FDG RATING: 0.75 ☹️⊖⊖⊖⊖

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

Leos Carax: *director/co-writer*

Henry: *actor, Adam Driver*

Ann: *actress, Marion Cotillard*

DATE: October 24, 2021

## DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **ANNETTE**

A 2021 pop-opera musical/romance, psychological drama, *Annette*, received positive published reviews with comments such as, "It's daring, original and heroically odd", "Beyond its undeniably dark heart, *Annette* is, paradoxically, the most exhilarating of films", "an exhilarating masterpiece".

Yes, we were bamboozled by the reviews and the star-studded duo of Adam Driver and Marion Cotillard when we chose it for our October discussion. Kudos to the few who watched the entire 140 minutes and to those who gave it their best shot but had to quit. We watch Henry (Driver) a stand-up comedian parade across the stage in his boxing robe and slippers, spewing obscene humor. His audience loves it. He is in love with Ann (Cotillard), a world-renowned opera singer, and amazingly (unbelievably), she is also in love with him. This mismatched "glamorous/tabloid couple" sing their way through the film along with other cast characters, but form zero connection with the film watchers, and not much with each other except for the performative sex scenes and his fetish for tickling her. It gets weirder. Ann gives birth to a daughter, *Annette*, who happens to be a wooden puppet that reminded several film discussion participants of the horror film *Chucky*. One participant actually had more empathy for the puppet than the two main characters.

Discussion comments were almost all negative including, "Pretentious, thought it was doing something great but it wasn't." Another discussion participant described it as a creepy horror film. Boring music. Uninteresting characters. A few positive comments noted the clever staging, a few "beautiful" scenes, highly original, creative." Viewers slogged through themes of evil, cruelty, revenge, beauty and the beast, the poisonous nature of fame. An interesting observation by a published critic: Could Henry's moral downfall have been prevented, perhaps, if his cheering audience had been silenced?

We agree with at least one film critic. The Atlantic noted, "Leos Carax's '*Annette*' is the weirdest movie of the year." Why would Driver and Cotillard want to be in such a demented film? Driver actually helped produce it. Maybe it's the director-worship syndrome where actors will do anything to be in a film by an admired director. But Carax hasn't made a film in 10 years before *Annette*. Enough said about this film.

We booed *Annette* with a pulverizing score of .75, not even a 1 on our scale of 1 to 5, (5 is the best.) That is the lowest score we have ever given a film since we first met in 2012.



See you at the movies!

Adriane Dedic, [adedic@pacbell.net](mailto:adedic@pacbell.net)

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