



FILM: **ANORA**

FDG RATING: 3.0 😊😊😊○○

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

Sean Baker: *director, write, editor*  
Mickey Madison: *actress, Ani (Anora)*  
Mark Eydehshteyn: *actor, Ivan*

DATE: January 19, 2025

## DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **ANORA**

Anora is a 2024 American comedy-drama film with an exceptional Oscar nominated performance by 25 year old Mikey Madison as a young exotic dancer sex worker, Ani, from Brooklyn. When she is requested by a 21 year old young man from Russia because she can speak Russian, her “business as usual” takes a turn after he asks if he can buy her for an entire week, assuring Ani that he has plenty of money and can easily afford it. He is living in his parents’ lavish palace, and although obviously immature and a spoiled rich kid, he and Ani have a fun, whirlwind romance. Coming from a working class, living with her sister and her sister’s boyfriend in a small apartment, Ani is understandably smitten with her new life style with Ivan.

They impulsively fly to Las Vegas to get married which seemed a bit out of character since Ani was very level-headed in her business “relationships”. One discussion participant said it was hard to believe that she really thought their marriage would work. We learn that Ivan is the son of a Russian oligarch so the tables quickly turn as his parents find out and fly with their Russian mafia entourage to retrieve Ivan and get the marriage annulled.

From the beginning, several discussion participants disliked the non-stop profanity and constant lap dance and erotic scenes but the characters, especially the mafia thugs, were so humorous, that the film became an outrageously fun farce. One of the funniest parts is the thug who got knocked on his head and obviously has a concussion. He tells the guys he should probably go to the hospital but they repeatedly brush off his request, give him pain meds for his headache, and put him on various assignments such as being the look out. He promptly falls asleep.

Ivan concedes to his controlling parents and coldly tells Ani their marriage is impossible while his mom orders everyone on a plane to Las Vegas. It’s a sad ending to her short fairytale Cinderella relationship, but Igor, one of Ivan’s body guards who showed a sensitive side and didn’t want to hurt people, offers a positive spin to the ending. He has driven Ani back to the little apartment. Emotionally overwhelmed by everything that has happened, Igor tries to comfort her, and she realizes Igor sees her for who she is, not a sex worker. She breaks down in tears letting go of her sex worker persona.

For some discussion participants, the story was too far-fetched, the characters too cartoonish, and way too much foul language. One person said it was an attack on his audio senses. What was the point: that it is sad some young women resort to sex work? Another comment was that in context, they liked Ani’s character and the performance was excellent but the story was ugly. Others were thoroughly entertained and laughed out loud.

A smorgasbord of hi and low scores resulted in an unsexy 3 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



See you at the movies!  
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