



FILM: **CESAR CHAVEZ**

FDG RATING: 3.2 ☺☺☺☺○

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

Michael Pena: *Actor (Cesar Chavez)*

Diego Luna: *Director*

DATE: April 20, 2014

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **CESAR CHAVEZ**

The film, Cesar Chavez, touched on the highlights of his life as an American Farm Worker labor leader activist in a Cliff Notes outline approach to the historical events at that time. We all agreed the docudrama was entertaining, well acted, and informative while at the same time leaving big holes. The simplified story made us want to know more about the man, his motivations, how he was able to succeed, and what was going on around him and in the nation and the world. Several of our resident film critics shared their personal connections to the story remembering family experiences here in California during those times and seeing the workers in the fields and their living conditions.

We wondered how the soft spoken, non-violent, Chavez could orchestrate such a large scale movement. In contrast to Michael Pena's somewhat bland Chavez, John Malkovitch almost steals the show as the sneering, right-wing grower Bogdonovitch even though he was remarkably restrained compared to his usual eccentric characters. America Ferrera was very believable as the strong and supportive wife.

Good but not great, we gave it a middle of the road score of 3.2 (on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the best).



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See you at the movies!

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