



FILM: **CHEF**

FDG RATING: 3



Jon Favreau: *Director, Screenplay,*

Jon Favreau: *Actor: Carl Casper, the chef*

EmJay Anthony: *Actor: Percy, Carl's young son*

DATE: June 22, 2014

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **CHEF**

A lighthearted comedy about a divorced creative chef, Carl Casper, who is convinced by his ex-wife and her ex-husband to unleash his edible creativity (mainly in Cuban sandwiches) in a food truck. Carl had angrily quit his position at a prominent LA restaurant because the owner refused to let him exercise his culinary urges ordering him to stick to the standard menu that the guests expect.

Carl's young son Percy joins him for a cross country road trip in the food truck, fostering a father and son bonding through cooking and promoting the locations of the food truck in social media. Our film critic reactions were a mixture of tasty praise and sour grapes. Most agreed the film was entertaining, with good music. We enjoyed the up-beat story and happy ending. One serious critic admitted to unexpectedly laughing at the humor. Others thought the story was too silly, predictable, contrived, and the acting was uneven. The food fight scene left a very bad taste in mouth of one of our critics. And another wondered how making Cuban sandwiches, even with a "secret" sauce, could fulfill the creative cravings of Carl. On the sweeter side, the food critic episodes and social media repercussions were humorous and the father-son, chef-friend-sous-chef, husband-wife-again relationships were heartwarming.

On a scale of 1-5 (5 is best) we gave the film a lukewarm 3 (with one critic's icing-on-the-cake rating of 5 balancing out a bottom-of-the-pot rating of 1).



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See you at the movies!

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Film Discussion Group (FDG) organizer