



FILM: **Dream Scenario**

FDG RATING: 2.8 😐😐😐😐😐

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

Kristoffer Borgli: *director*
Nicolas Cage: *actor, Paul Mathews*
Michael Cara: *actor, Trent*

DATE: March 24, 2024

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **Dream Scenario**

The 2023 film, *Dream Scenario*, stars Nicolas Cage, a favorite actor of most of our discussion participants, so with a very creative, interesting premise, mash-up of drama, fantasy, sci-fi, with a touch of horror, we expected more.

Paul Mathews, (very good performance by Nicolas Cage) is a non-descript family man and biology professor, nothing really distinguishable, memorable, or interesting about him. The film opens in his backyard where his youngest daughter, Sophie, sees her father standing by the pool, and everything around them starts floating up to the sky then falls and breaks so she panics and cries out for her father to do something, but typical to his usual mode, he just keeps standing there and does nothing. She wakes up and realizes she has been dreaming. As his day and week goes on, some colleagues, students, and other people he encounters, tell him he has been in their dreams, but whatever the situation, he just stands there. This strange phenomena attracts the press turning Paul into a celebrity which he hopes will cause publishers to want to publish his book...which he hasn't yet written.

One of our favorite parts is when he meets with the marketing firm with spot on satire as they want to have him holding a can of sprite seemingly in people's dreams.

Things take a twisted turn when a young female, Molly, says in her dream he seduced her and she wants him to reenact her dream which, he agrees to do, although we all agreed that seemed out of character. Now, people have nightmares with Paul doing horrible things, the marketing firm takes back their publicity offer, his freaked-out students attend therapy sessions to try to accept Paul as who he is rather than the demon in their dreams, and worst of all, he is barred from attending his daughter's performance in a school play. He tries to force his way in, accidentally harming the teacher who is trying to hold the door closed, which leads to losing his job, his wife divorcing him, also out of character since she clearly loved him, but he ends up publishing his book, a memoir, that gets a big response in France, however the title has been changed from *Dream Scenario* to *I Am Your Nightmare*.

Most of us didn't like the end which shifts to focus on a new product introduction that enables people to enter the dreams of someone else as long as they agree.

Is it a mid-life crisis movie? Is it about confronting a person's dark side? Is it about how we perceive people and how perceptions can be manipulated? One discussion participant noted that the ideas we discussed are more interesting than the film. Another comment was that the film is full of compelling themes that are not successfully explored. It could have been funnier with dark humor was one more opinion. Light weight fluff was how another discussion participant described the film and added that it is an intriguing spin on the downside of fame.

E for effort seemed to sum it up which equaled a lackadaisical score of 2.8 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



See you at the movies!
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