

**FILM: I'M YOUR MAN**

FDG RATING: 4.1

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

Maria Schrader: *director*
Dan Stevens: *actor, Tom*
Maren Eggert: *actress, Alma*

DATE: November 21, 2021

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: I'M YOUR MAN

There's always a new spin on the dating ritual and director, Maria Schrader, has taken match making to its technological extreme by programming a robot to be forty-something Alma's ideal companion. Alma is a research scientist at Berlin's magnificent Pergamon Museum, and entirely dedicated to her work. Needing research funds, she agrees to participate in a study - for three weeks she must live with a human-like robot designed solely to be her ideal companion. Tom is a handsome A.I. creation who's programmed to continuously adapt to her desires as they get to know each other, making him quickly evolve into her perfect partner. It's an interesting take on actual relationships where partners need to adjust to make the relationship work. Tom has a childlike wonder as he senses he's not quite getting it right with Alma, so he tones down his initial overly romantic style, trying to adjust to Alma's needs for more "friction" in a relationship.

The film's tone is light, humorous, quirky, raising questions about finding the perfect mate. At one point Alma says, "You don't love me for who I am; you're programmed to love me." Tom begins their relationship in stereotypical ways which don't work with Alma. She didn't have the standard female reactions to his romantic gestures, so he must come up with new approaches for courtship. It's interesting that Tom has a British accent rather than German, because he knows she likes foreign accents but not too foreign. As a scientist, Alma is fairly resistant to Tom's overtures, not quite committed to the experiment. But, as required, they invent a story about how they met. As the study progresses, Alma wants to terminate it, possibly because she is starting to have feelings for a very realistic humanoid, Tom. She sends him away, and we expect he is going in for maintenance. After a period of time, Alma goes searching for him and finds him in the place where they supposedly met.

It's a bit over the top, but most discussion participants really enjoyed the film, appreciating its playful approach to relationships while simultaneously exploring meaningful issues. One female discussion participant thought Tom was extremely sexy with an added plus that his parts work all the time, but, cleverly, his sexual parts must be initiated with some emotional exchange such as a kiss.

Another discussion participant described the film as funny, fresh, provocative, but would have preferred Tom to be decommissioned at the end, rather than the "cheesy" ending.

Judging from our cumulative score, we happily bought into the idea of a perfect humanoid mate, endowing I'm Your Man with an idyllic score of 4.1 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



See you at the movies!

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