



FILM: **INDIGNATION**

FDG RATING: 4.0   
Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

James Schamus: *Director (novel by Phillip Roth)*  
Logan Lerman: *Actor: Marcus Messner*  
Sarah Gadon: *Actress: Olivia Hutton*  
Tracy Letts: *Actor: Dean Caudwell*

DATE: September 18, 2016

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **INDIGNATION**

The film *Indignation* focuses on the essence of emotions that build and finally explode in Marcus Messner (Logan Lerman), a brilliant student on a scholarship to a small, conservative college in Ohio, during the closed-minded 1950s. As the introverted son of a New Jersey Jewish butcher and an over protective mother, he struggles with sexual repression, cultural alienation, and clashes with his class and dorm mates (frat boys) as well as with the imposing dean who seems to purposely antagonize Marcus under the guise of educational guidance.

As a student, Marcus has safely avoided being drafted into the Korean War which has cast an ominous shadow over America with young men being shot up in drenches and coming home in coffins. That was his parents worst fear but almost as bad is Marcus's infatuation with a beautiful "wasp" classmate who seduces him, unraveling the taut educational/life plan that Marcus and his parents had set.

Some of us who read the book by Phillip Roth, thought the film was better and succinctly brought to life a rather wordy story. We appreciated the interesting structure beginning with the boy's death. And the dark lighting in all the scenes created an atmosphere of heavy repression.

We applauded the strong performances of all the main characters. One of the best scenes was when Marcus refused to back down as he engaged in a quick witted verbal confrontation with puritanical Christian Dean Hardwell who pushes Marcus' precocious debate skills with accusational, insulting attacks on his values.

A well-done period piece, with costumes, locations, and cinematography that accurately captured the repressed tone of the 1950s as well as the emotional struggles of a young Jewish boy coming of age. Heart wrenching and engrossing, we gave *Indignation* an exemplary grade of 4.0 on a scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



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See you at the movies!

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