



FILM: **JIMI: ALL IS BY MYSIDE**

FDG RATING: 3.8 ☺☺☺☺

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

John Ridley: *Director, writer*

Andre Benjam: *Actor: Jimi Hendrix*

Imogen Poots: *Actress: Linda Keith*

DATE: October 19, 2014

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **JIMI: ALL IS BY MY SIDE**

Due to a very short engagement at one theater across the Bay, only five of our film discussion participants saw Jimi: All Is By My Side. But our viewers enthusiastically applauded the film drama with one resident fan completely enthralled, reminiscing about the live Hendrix concerts she had gone to. As our own eyewitness affirmed, Jimi's dreamy distracted personality was played pitch perfect by actor Andre Benjamin.

Focusing on a single year in the legendary guitarist's short life, the film begins with his discovery by Keith Richard's girlfriend, Linda Keith, (warmly played by Imogen Poots) at the Cheetah Club in New York. She entices him to perform in the UK where she gets him a good manager, steers in the right direction, and he quickly rises to fame. The film closes as he is returning to the States to play at Monterey Pop, unsure if audiences here will like his music. The event launched him as a super rock star.

We witness a small segment of his life, but it is the segment that changed his life, a life that ended way too soon when he was only 27. And without Linda Keith's skillful prodding, Jimi would have probably remained an unknown.

It was a unique era that was reenacted perfectly. The colorful costumes, spot-on type casting, excellent performances, and well told story hit all the right notes. We saw the time compressed evolution of a legendary musician. The message that it took one person to recognize his talent and push it to success resonated beyond the film.

What we missed was hearing his electrifying music because the Hendrix estate denied permission for its use. But with a guitarist accompanying Benjamin singing some of the songs that Hendrix covered, like "Wild Thing" and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band", we felt the vibe. We wanted to know more and would have loved to have seen Jimi at Monterey Pop, heard his rendition of Wild Thing, and see him set his guitar in fire stunning the audience, but the film ends abruptly before his explosive performance.

Despite feeling a little short changed, our collective vote awarded Jimi: All Is By My Side a rousing 3.8 on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best).



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See you at the movies!

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