



FILM: **LOVE & FRIENDSHIP**

FDG RATING: 3.5 ☺☺☺☺○

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

Whit Stillman: *Director, story by Jane Austen*
Kate Beckinsale: *Actress: Lady Susan*

DATE: June 19, 2016

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **LOVE & FRIENDSHIP**

Adapted from a short story that Jane Austen wrote when she was 14 years old, *Love & Friendship* is a master literary film with witty humor, brilliantly scripted dialogue, gorgeous sets, costumes, cinematography, and colorful 18th century characters. Kate Beckinsale gives an outstanding performance as the beautiful, elegantly alluring, devious, young widow, Lady Susan Vernon who amidst colorful rumors about her romantic dalliances, settles into her brother-in-law's estate with an eye on securing a new husband for herself and one for her eligible but reluctant daughter.

The story unfolds with a parade of men, some divinely handsome, dashing and married, usually obscenely rich, plus one who is "a bit of a rattle" (or "buffoon" in our vernacular). Almost each has a female counterpart as well as Susan having her American-exile girl friend companion-confident to add even more spice to the relationship jealousies and escapades. Conversations are quick, witty, and sprinkled with Jane Austen "hilarious" humor that caused appreciative, cloistered laughs by some viewers in the theaters while others completely missed the humor. For some of us the story was hard to follow, and we missed many clever lines since the plethora of characters bantered at a fast pace. But as for a strong femme fatale heroine, who self indulgently manipulates everyone she encounters, Lady Susan takes the cake.

Our Jane Austen fans loved the film, finding it thoroughly entertaining. Others enjoyed it but a bit less enthusiastically, and then the one or two reviewers who prefer less measured dialogue and if in the mood for a dose of literary sophistication, would prefer to settle in for a good read of the novel rather than see it displayed on the big screen which begs for more edgy film creativity.

We collectively awarded the film an affectionate 3.5 on a scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



.....
See you at the movies!
Adriane Dedic, adedic@pacbell.net
Film Discussion Group (FDG) organizer