



FILM: **LOVE IS STRANGE**

FDG RATING: 2.8 😊😊😐

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

Ira Sachs: *Director, writer*

John Lithgow: *Actor: Ben*

Alfred Molina: *Actor: George*

DATE: September 21, 2014

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **LOVE IS STRANGE**

Although the film is about an older gay couple who have been in a loving relationship for almost 40 years, the challenges they face and choices they make after one of them loses his job, could just as easily be the story of an elderly straight couple. Unable to afford their Manhattan apartment, Ben stays in Brooklyn with his nephew Elliot, Elliot's novelist wife Kate, and their teenage son Joey, while George bunks with two party-loving gay cops, Roberto and Ted, all of which add the comic elements in the midst of the uncomfortable situation. Some of us could personally relate to the stress of staying in someone else's home or having someone stay in your home, when personal boundaries are pushed to their limits. We felt those scenes perfectly captured the explicit and subtle emotions that come into play.

The characters were all motivated by a strong sense of family love although it can manifest itself in strange ways. Ben and George's relationship was the most touching and was a truly beautiful love story. Also, the love advice that Ben gave Joey makes the final scene more meaningful where Joey and his girlfriend are skateboarding together.

This slow moving, slightly disjointed, a bit overly sentimental, interesting story, is solidly grounded by the outstanding performances of John Lithgow (Ben) and Alfred Molina (George).

The film rallied a 2.8 (on a scale of 1-5, 5 is the best) with most votes vacillating in the middle. (We did have a hearty 5 that was sadly pulled down by a lowly 1.5.)



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See you at the movies!

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