



FILM: **MAGIC IN THE MOONLIGHT**

FDG RATING: 2 ☹️😊👉👉👉

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

Woody Allen: *Director*

Colin Firth: *Actor, Wei Ling Soo*

Emma Stone: *Actress, Sophie Baker*

DATE: August 24, 2014

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **MAGIC IN THE MOONLIGHT**

Woody Allen's *Magic in the Moonlight* failed to charm most of our film group reviewers. Although the concept is captivating: Are we happier when we demystify illusions or when we suspend disbelief and accept the illusionary? as a romantic comedy, it was not quite believable. Stanley (Wei Ling Soo, world renowned illusionist) changes from a grouchy, cynic to a smitten, romantic when he fails to debunk Sophie's clairvoyant powers and succumbs to her alluring spell.

The 1920 Cote d'Azur costumes and cinematography are gorgeous but the scenery seemed like phony backdrops (possibly exceptionally gorgeous on purpose to add to theme of illusion) for some of our film group critics. Although a few of us enjoyed *Magic in the Moonlight*, we admit it is a mediocre Woody Allen film. Especially disturbing is the miscast Emma Stone, and the uncomfortable attraction between her and the much older Stanley. What is somewhat satisfying, is that the biggest trick is played on Stanley by his lifelong friend who devised the entire scenario. Unwilling to accept this romantic comedy on its illusive terms, most of our film group found it too long, manipulative, and disappointing.

On a scale of 1-5 (5 is the best), we gave it a lowly 2.



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See you at the movies!

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