



FILM: **OXYGEN**

FDG RATING: 3.6 😊😊😊😊⊙

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

Alexandre Aja: *director*
Mélanie Laurent: *actress, Liz*

DATE: August 22, 2021

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **OXYGEN**

A mesmerizing French survival thriller, Oxygen is dominated by the performance of Mélanie Laurent as Liz, who wakes up in a cryogenic pod and doesn't remember who she is or how she ended up there. Within her claustrophobic pod, a tangle of cables connect her to devices that monitor and control her body functions and connect her to an on board computer named MILO who states calculations regarding her odds of survival, noting that the chamber is quickly losing oxygen. She realizes she must use the data retrieval capabilities of MILO to methodically rebuild her memory and figure out who she is, why she's there and how to fix her catastrophic situation. She cleverly uses AI to show her news articles that contain her name to piece together her life story.

Laurant's performance was intensely captivating as we anxiously feel the minutes pass as she struggles with jumbled memories that start to flood her mind adding to her confused state. (Not to mention the hallucinatory rats.) One discussion participant said the film got so intense, she had to step away. A published film critic praised Laurant noting that her emotions run an entire gamut from fear to anger to grief while locked into a performance in which she basically only uses her face and voice.

Eventually, the back story is revealed. We learn she is a doctor studying genetically engineered clones. To say any more would be a spoiler alert.

The story is exceptionally original with outstanding acting. The suspense is almost overwhelming. A few discussion participants thought her struggle became a bit tedious. One discussion participant lost confidence in MILO; noting that the artificial intelligence didn't seem credible. Another said she was captivated and terrified trying to figure out what was going on. We had mixed responses to the film's ending. One resident reviewer would have given the film our highest score of 5, but deducted half a point for a disappointing ending.

We scored Oxygen a lofty 3.6 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best).



See you at the movies!

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www.filmdiscussiongroup.com