



FILM: **SHE SAID**

FDG RATING: 4.0

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

Maria Schrader: *director*  
Zoe Kazan: *actress, Jodi Kantor*  
Carey Mulligan: *actress, Megan Twohey*

DATE: January 22, 2023

## DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **SHE SAID**

Based on the 2019 non-fiction book, *She Said* is an engrossing drama that chronicles the relentless dedication of the two journalists responsible for exposing sexual abuse allegations against powerful Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein. In 2016, New York Times investigative reporter Jodi Kantor, (outstanding performance by Zoe Kazan), wants to follow up on allegations about Weinstein that concern sexual harassment, assault and rape. She teams up with reporter Megan Twohey, who has just written about new sexual-assault allegations against then-presidential candidate Donald Trump.

We were glued to the screen, watching the two women who, juggle family responsibilities with the demands of their job, (contrary to films we've seen about male investigative reporters.) One discussion participant described the tension during the entire film as Weinstein's victims are afraid to "go on record" because of threats to ruin their careers and because of non-disclosure contracts that they have been coerced to sign. Recreating that fear, anxiety, and deep emotional vulnerability plus the trauma of memories of the abuse was enacted to perfection. Ashley Judd plays herself, agonizing over whether she should go public with her story about having fended off Weinstein's hotel-room advances years ago.

We were impressed with how honest the two reporters were about keeping statements off the record as promised. They pursued Weinstein's victims with polite tenacity, believing that eventually someone would be willing to talk. But their dogged pursuit raised the question of how could these serious abuses continue without raising alarms? Attacking the story from every angle, they uncovered a vast network of enablers who helped Weinstein not only commit his crimes but also keep them hidden, through settlements and non-disclosure agreements.

It took months of relentless interviews, trying to gain trust, as they race to build an airtight case, especially after learning that the New Yorker is also working on a Weinstein expose. It was inspiring to see the integrity and dedication of the Times reporters and their editors. Finally, one of the first women to go on the record against Weinstein, said that she decided to speak because she never wants her daughters to experience that kind of abuse. It has to stop. Sadly, the instances of abuse in the entertainment industry have not stopped, but at least it's getting harder for abusers to hide.

Most discussion participants enthusiastically applauded the film's merits while a few found it interesting but were less impressed with the script and thought it was mediocre compared to *Spotlight* which chronicled the Boston Globe's expose of the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese. There was overwhelming publicity about Harvey Weinstein's fall from grace but as one discussion participant noted, the movie made it all come alive.

Lots of high scores for *She Said* resulted a tenacious 4.0 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



See you at the movies!  
Adriane Dedic, [adedic@pacbell.net](mailto:adedic@pacbell.net)  
[www.filmdiscussiongroup.com](http://www.filmdiscussiongroup.com)