



FILM: **THE HOUSE OF GUCCI**

FDG RATING: 3.5 ☺☺☺☺○

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

Ridley Scott: *director*
Lady Gaga: *actress, Patrizia Reggiani*
Adam Driver: *actor, Mauricio Gucci*

DATE: June 19, 2022

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **THE HOUSE OF GUCCI**

The House of Gucci features an all-star cast with Adam Driver as a perfect Mauricio Gucci and Lady Gaga, outstanding as his wife Patrizia, plus Jared Leto; Jeremy Irons; Salma Hayek; and Al Pacino which is surely part of its allure, because we already know the story. It was front page headlines when Maurizio Gucci was gunned down on orders of his embittered ex-wife Patrizia Reggiani on the steps of his Milan office on March 27, 1995. The film dramatizes the events leading up the murder chronicling the unraveling of an internationally famous Italian fashion dynasty, a powerful, sophisticated business empire, brought down by the greed and betrayal of an outsider who married into the tight knit family.

It's an interesting character study of social climber, Patrizia, whose family ran a very successful trucking company in Milan and of Mauricio whose aristocratic upbringing, shy soft spoken manner, and interest in studying law rather than the family business, makes him a vulnerable target. We also see the typical condescending, formidable, family patriarch, (a fabulous Jeremy Irons), who can't conceive that his only son would wed someone who is beneath him and cuts him out of the family fortune when Maurizio insists on honoring his romantic convictions. We get a peek into Patrizia's propensity for devious deceit when we see her forging her stepfather's signature at the trucking company.

Patrizia and Maurizio actually have a happy relationship as Maurizio is welcomed into her working class family but when he is lured back into the Gucci dynasty, through Patrizia's conniving schemes with Maurizio's uncle, she becomes driven to assert more control over the company especially when she is aware of questionable business dealings that undermine the Gucci brand. There is a bit of Lady Macbeth in her character as she twists the will of her husband around her little finger. But there comes a turning point when he realizes his family is being shredded apart through her manipulations.

Although most discussion group participants found the film beautifully made and extremely well-acted, one person commented that it was a frivolous film about frivolous people. Another noted that the character development was weak. It was about the pitfalls of the rich and famous; unbridled ambition, greed, and revenge was another comment. One critical discussion participant said that the way Patrizia seduced Maurizio was a bit absurdist with many scenes bordering on ridiculous. Others loved the over-the-top costumes, and glamorous settings. Insight in the family dynasty of the Gucci brand held another participant's attention. Watching the shift in power was also interesting.

A footnote at the end of the film revealed that although Gucci (founded in 1921 by Guccio Gucci in Florence, Tuscany) is one of the world's most well-known and successful brands (known for luxury leather goods, fashion, watches and jewelry); following family feuds during the 1980s, the Gucci family was entirely ousted from the company. In 1993, after Maurizio sold his 50 per cent interest in Gucci to the same investment firm he had brought in to buy up his relatives' shares, there would no longer be anyone from the Gucci family involved in running Gucci.

Lots of talent in an entertaining story, House of Gucci snatched a patronizing 3.5 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



See you at the movies!

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