



FILM: **THE IMMIGRANT**

FDG RATING: 3.1



James Gray: *Director, Screenplay,*

Marion Cotillard: *Actress: Ewa Cybulska, Polish immigrant*

Joaquin Phoenix: *Actor: Bruno Weiss, burlesque manager*

DATE: June 22, 2014

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **THE IMMIGRANT**

The Immigrant contrasts the morally pure, lily white heroine suffering of Polish immigrant Ewa, with the sleazy evil manipulation of Bruno, a burlesque manager, who preys on vulnerable immigrant women and lures them into prostitution. One of our resident critics pointed out the heavy religious, redemption through suffering, themes and the pure survivor saintliness of Ewa.

This 1920 prohibition era New York period film told a powerful, gripping story that had a strong emotional impact on some of us. Others felt that the characters were one dimensional, artificial, stereotypes that lacked depth and complexity and moved along like puppets to fulfill the moralistic vision of the director. The film definitely captured the period and told a different side of the immigrant story from the one where the immigrant achieves success. But relatively good performances, good sets, expressive mood cinematography and excellent costumes weren't enough to really draw in some critical viewers who couldn't connect with and deeply care about the characters.

We gave the film a mediocre 3-almost-3.1 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best.



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See you at the movies!

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Film Discussion Group (FDG) organizer