



FILM: **THE LITTLE HOURS**

FDG RATING: 2.6

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

Jeff Baena: *Director & Writer*

Ensemble Cast:

Kate Micucci (*Genevra*), Alison Brie (*Alessandra*), Aubrey Plaza (*Fernanda*)

Molly Shannon (*Mother Superior*)

Tom Reilly (*FatherTommaso*)

Fred Armisen (*Bishop*)

DATE: August 20, 2017

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **THE LITTLE HOURS**

The Little Hours, seems like an extended SNL comedy skit with familiar faces playing Mother Superior (Molly Shannon), Father Tommaso (John C. Reilly), visiting bishop (Fred Armisen), and a group of misbehaving, sex craved nuns who speak in the slangy, obscenity-laden language of today's youth. The story is loosely based on a 14th century novella, The Decameron, which were tales told in the countryside as folks were escaping the plague.

Evidently, in medieval times, daughters were sometimes sent to the convent just so the family could have socioeconomic gains. Or girls were often entrusted to the church's care if they were sexual misfits, divorcées, unwed mothers, or unmarriageable. In this film, saintliness has flown out the stained glass window. The band of randy young nuns act more like jealous high school students taking out resentment on each other and then channeling their sexual desires on the new hunky gardener who pretends to be a deaf mute in an effort to discourage the girls' lusty advances. Even Father Tommaso and Mother Superior are having trouble respecting their own vows of chastity. The Father clearly complains, "that monastery is so boring, all we do is pray! I mean, it is important, but ...,"

A raunchy sex romp comedy in the hills of Italy with a cast of nuns and less than saintly Father and Mother Superior, was hilarious to some of our resident reviewers. Others thought the film was not funny at all. It was definitely jarring, even shocking, to hear such foul words spoken out of the mouths of nuns. But for most of our group, the cussing grew tiresome. One observer thought the director racked up as many sins as possible to put them in a satirical spin. Another recognized the strength of the talented ensemble cast who pretty much improvised the entire film based on a loose outline. A favorite for some was naïve Genevra (Kate Micucci) who we recognized from a couple stints in The Big Bang Theory. And of course, the appearance of Fred Armisen as the visiting Bishop, aghast at the activities of the monastery, prompted quite a few chuckles.

A bit slapstick, or Monty Pythonesque, hugely sacrilegious, and, for some, a welcome break from the dark, more violent films currently in the theaters. It was the perfect ribald antidote to current politics, according to one enthusiastic reviewer whose score of 5 only managed to tip our cumulative rating for The Little Hours to a mediocre 2.6 on a scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best).



See you at the movies!

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[Film Discussion Group](#) (FDG) organizer