



FILM: **THE OBVIOUS CHILD**

FDG RATING: 2.4 ☹️☹️☹️⊙⊙

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

Gillian Robespierre: *Director, Screenplay, Story*  
Jenny Slate: *Actress, aspiring comedian* Donna Stern

DATE: July 20, 2014

## DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **THE OBVIOUS CHILD**

A raunchy, 30 something New York stand-up comedian, whose confessional style of humor is liberally peppered with references to her private parts, gets knocked up, chooses to have an abortion, and continues with her life without missing a beat. Although labeled a “romantic comedy”, most of us thought the comedy wasn’t that funny and the romance was pretty subtle. The abortion story line is definitely unconventional. But if the message was to put a positive or non-judgmental spin on a woman’s choice to have an abortion, the message was trivialized by the immature personality of the main character. A missed opportunity, as pointed out by one of our astute critics.

On a positive note, we thought Jenny Slate’s performance as aspiring young comedian, Donna Stern, was very good, and her character was interesting, but the rest of the characters weren’t well developed and not very memorable. We do see Donna mature, a bit, as her tendency to stereotype people becomes more accepting. And it was nice to see the guy, caring, showing a sense of responsibility, providing emotional support, and continuing to pursue a romantic relationship during and after the “non-ordeal”. We appreciated that the brave statement about abortion was not heavy handed. For Donna, it was a momentary life interruption with the financial aspect being her main concern. Many of us had high expectations since the film was getting very good reviews but there just wasn’t much to it. It was based on a short film and never managed to develop beyond that. As for the title of the film, we think the “obvious child” is Donna. On a scale of 1-5 (5 is the best), we gave the film a disappointing 2.4 with one resident critic giving it a lonely 1, balancing out the meager highs of no more than 3.



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*See you at the movies!*

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*Film Discussion Group (FDG) organizer*

