



FILM: **THE OUTFIT**

FDG RATING: 4.0 ☺☺☺☺○

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

Graham Moore: *director/co-writer*  
Mark Rylance: *actor, Leonard*  
Zoey Deutch: *Mable*

DATE: August 20, 2023

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **THE OUTFIT**

“Mark Rylance delivers one of the best performances of his career...” stated one film reviewer, and we couldn’t agree more. As Leonard Burling, a cutter from London's famous Savile Row (more skillful than a mere tailor, he must cut the exact pattern into cloth), he makes expensive suits for his demanding clients, the Chicago mafia, who use his shop as a drop spot and hang out in his backroom. Leonard keeps a low profile, carrying on his business which he is passionate about. But everything comes to a head when, one night, when Leonard is working late, the mob boss’ son, Richie and his associate, Francis, show up at Leonard’s shop. Richie has been shot in the stomach and badly needs to go to the hospital, which is not an option. Leonard doesn’t have a choice and must save Richie’s life by sewing the stitches to close his deep bullet wound.

The film has thrilling twists and turns, with almost every scene taking place in Leonard’s cutting room. One discussion participant who loved the film, said it was like the layers of an onion being peeled, just as another layer appears. Another astute comment was that Leonard was such a soft-spoken modest man, but at the end he is the most powerful person, and is actually a “cutter of people”.

Leonard says that as a cutter, he has the ability to size up people. He knows from the way they carry themselves what sort of people they are and how to dress them, which is why one discussion participant thought that Leonard was playing along; he really understood the criminal minds around him and had his own plan. Another positive comment was that it was the perfect very dark dramedy.

We liked the clever double entendre of the title: the outfit refers to the suits he makes but also is the name of the nationwide syndicate founded by Al Capone, the logo is seen on an envelope left at the shop. A favorite scene is seeing Leonard’s prized possession, his large cutting shears gleaming on its hanger. And the scene when the numbers gang led by a black female, Violet LaFontaine, storms into the sewing room.

An impressive directorial debut, suspenseful, engaging, with an outstanding performance by Rylance, we fittingly dressed *The Outfit* with a sharp score of 4.0 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



See you at the movies!  
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