



FILM: **THE RACE**

FDG RATING: 2.9 ☺☺☺○○
Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

Stephen Hopkins: *Director*
Stephan James: *Actor: Jesse Owens*

DATE: March 20, 2016

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **THE RACE**

A conventional bio-documentary film about young Jesse Owen's (Stephan James) who becomes a track and field sensation while attending the Ohio State University in the early 1930s. The United States decides not to boycott the 1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany, giving Owens the opportunity to compete, stand up to overwhelming racism, and fulfill his dream to become the greatest track and field athlete in history. The film ends when Owens comes home from the Olympics and attends a reception in his honor at the Waldorf. The poignant scene shows Owens and his wife coming through the servant's entrance because they were not allowed to enter through the front door. He returned with four gold medals, however, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt wouldn't congratulate nor meet with him.

The film came and left quickly, so only a few members of our discussion group saw it. Although lacking in depth and suspense, and being somewhat manipulative, the small group of movie-goers felt entertained and applaud the performances. One of our resident reviewers thought the production was daringly old-fashioned with great special effects. We learned about Owen's personal struggles while gaining insight into the kind of person he was; an insightful example was his friendship with one of the German athletes.

On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the best, Race didn't win any records with our group, but earned a respectable 2.9.

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See you at the movies!

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Film Discussion Group (FDG) organizer