



FILM: **THE WORST PERSON IN THE WORLD**

FDG RATING: 3.6 ☺☺☺☺○

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

Joachim Trier: *director*

Renate Reinsve: *Julie, actress*

DATE: July 17, 2022

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **THE WORST PERSON IN THE WORLD**

The Worst Person in the World was one of the worst movies for several of our discussion participants. But others disagreed, observing that Julie was completely believable as a typical young woman trying to find her path in life. Another discussion participant really enjoyed the relationship angst as Julie apparently changes boyfriends to coincide as she changes her career interests which is often.

Introspective, hilariously funny or pointless and meandering? To those critical of the Norwegian film, Julie is directionless from the start and never gains a successful focus for her life. Starting out in med school (she chose to make the most of her exceptional grades as a student), she then drops out because, quote: "it is too much like body carpentry." She switches to psychology, but decides it's not what she really wants to focus on so pursues photography for a scene then switches to writing but finally, as the active narrative starts, she has decided to work in a book store. For some, that beginning painted a negative picture for the character and tainted the potential for empathy.

At the store's book-signing event, she is infatuated with the author-creator animator of a cult comic series "Bobcat" that features a crude bob cat. Probably not the best choice for a relationship if she truly is seeking a positive direction for her life. In the opinion of several discussion participants, Julie's indecisiveness in all of her choices including her merry-go-round of nonstop love sexcapades got tiresome and fostered a sense of indifference for the characters.

Another disenchanted viewer admitted, Julie was completely unlikeable. Her quest for who she was and what she wanted seemed off the charts. Jumping from medicine to psychology and photography and bed to bed to bed was a turn-off. She evidently was intellectually smart but emotionally and psychologically underdeveloped and self-absorbed. Her focus was non-stop "all about me" and finding her happiness. It was pointed out that as a young immature woman, she meets a thoughtful, caring older man she is not ready for and by the time she realizes he was the right one, he is dying. In that perspective, perhaps, she finds herself. Or does she? Some discussion participants thought the film presented the growth of Julie from her indecisive nature to her confident self.

So what does the title mean? Easy to miss, but one of her romantic partners refers to himself as the worst person in the world as he prepares to cheat on another woman by seeing Julie on the sly. Still, the film's title has no logical connection if the film is all about Julie.

One published film reviewer wrote that Julie is "a character who remains as vague at the end as at the beginning, and whom (the director) Trier observes with a superficial fascination, even an infatuation with his own dramatic creation." To one discussion participant, that perspective rang true, almost as if Trier was as self-absorbed as Julie, as he shaped Julie's narrative and he could care less about the viewer's experience.

Never the less, some discussion participants really liked the film. The acting was very good. The discussion about death was well-done. The scene when time stands still as Julie walks around Oslo was intriguing, with clever cinematography. The cancer confrontation was truthful. The psychedelic mushroom trip was very convincing.

A few of the worst scores were countered by some high scores leaving The Worst Person in the World with a likeable 3.6 on our scale of 1 to 5. 5 is the best.



See you at the movies!

Adriane Dedic, adedic@pacbell.net
www.filmdiscussiongroup.com