



FILM: **TWO LOTTERY TICKETS**

FDG RATING: 2.9 ☹️😊😊😊😊

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

Paul Negoescu: *director*
Dorian Boguță: *Actor, Dinel*
Dragoș Bucur: *Actor, Sile*
Alexandru Papadopol: *Actor, Pompiliu*

DATE: August 22, 2021

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **TWO LOTTERY TICKETS**

Two Lottery Tickets, a 2016 Romanian buddy comedy, produced on a very obvious shoestring budget (about \$50,000), is a comedy of errors with a trio of down-on-their-luck pals embarking on a madcap quest to find their stolen, winning lottery ticket. Most discussion participants enjoyed the light heartedness.

It was an entertaining peek at the different cultures in Romania, (one of the poorest countries in Europe), as the trio go door to door in their apartment asking each tenant if they saw the two thugs who bullied them and stole Dinel's fanny pack (that had the winning ticket.) We meet the family of gypsies who read Dinel's palms to provide him mysterious answers, drug addicts, a prostitute, and a gullible young girl diligently doing homework waiting for her parents to get home. Of the menagerie of tenants, she is the sole "good" person and yet gets in trouble from her parents for slacking on her homework.

Another resident reviewer asked if the unattractive side of Romania is purposely being portrayed as underlying commentary about their quality of life. The sparse looking city has communistic, plain boxy buildings. The lives of the characters in the film are somewhat dismal. Which might be why Dinel's wife has run off to Italy.

A few favorite scenes mock the incompetence of the police. In one, the pals convince the policeman that the color of the car is not what he sees and therefore does not need a new permit.

One discussion participant was completely turned off by the slapstick humor and the mockery of the three men who are simpletons. Another noted that the actors were perfect at portraying their simpleton natures.

The film takes a jab at Romanian films and mocks the New Wave trend in film making. Sile makes a comment that he saw a boring Romanian film. Pompiliu whines that "Romanians are bad at making movies. We have such a beautiful country, but they only show doom and gloom." There were probably many "in-jokes" that we missed.

One resident reviewer especially liked how the characters could be understood in a universal way. They were recognizable and endearing.

Undoubtedly, the best scene is at the end when, after buying another lottery ticket, Dinel promises to put the ticket in a place where it could not be lost or stolen, so he pastes it to his fridge. Amazingly, he has again selected the winning numbers! But they find it impossible to remove the ticket and end up wheeling the fridge down the hall on their way to claim their winnings.

Some good laughs, somewhat slow, a mixed bag that some found funny and others didn't, resulting in a not so winning 2.9 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best)



See you at the movies!
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