



FILM: **WHIPLASH**

FDG RATING: 4.5 
Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

Damien Chazelle: *Director,*
Miles Teller: *Actor: Andrew Neyman*
J.K. Simmons: *Actor: Mr. Fletcher*

DATE: November 23, 2014

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **WHIPLASH**

Only one of our resident critics saw the film, Whiplash, since it appeared in a couple indie theaters for a very short time. But watching Whiplash was a cinematic, adrenalin rush. Powerful performances by Miles Teller as Andrew Neyman, a driven, young jazz drummer, first year student at a prestigious music school and his idolized, abusively demanding, instructor Mr. Fletcher (J.K. Simmons), held the viewers rapt attention at a dizzying pace. We saw how much power the students allowed Mr. Fletcher to exert in the hope of being molded into one of his carefully chosen top performers, primed for achieving legendary status. And we saw the wake of emotional destruction Mr. Fletcher left in his intimidating path as pushes students to achieve perfection. Is it worth it? (A question we can all ask ourselves about the overwhelming pressure to succeed or even to please someone who has control over our fate.) Andrew's father (Paul Reiser) offers a softspoken, gentle, supportive counterpoint to Mr. Fletcher's excessively demanding dogma. The cinematography and sound editing is mesmerizing, matching the pounding percussion of drums and heartbeats, rhythmically panning and moving from frame to frame in an electrifying jazz orchestration. The film has a satisfying resolution. Earning a high note on all levels, this resident critic awarded Whiplash a rating of 4.5 on a scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best).



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See you at the movies!

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