



FILM: **WILD TALES**

FDG RATING: 4.1   
Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

Damián Szifron: *Director*  
Multiple Actors for 6 vignettes

DATE: APRIL 19, 2015

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **WILD TALES**

Who hasn't wished revenge on someone who callously takes advantage of a person or situation for their own benefit regardless of who he/she hurts. Wild Tales turns our "get even" urges into over the edge film reality exploding with wickedness. Six fast moving very short vignettes take common encounters or events and spin them out of control causing the characters to take extreme measures. Exaggerated acts of vengeance combined with comic elements to spark empathy, tickle our funny bone, or for a few, were too violent to be amusing.

Our favorites were the "Pasternak", about a group of passengers on a plane who discover they all know a man named Pasternak who it turns out is flying the plane and none of them have anything good to say about him, in fact just the opposite. Evidently each had treated him badly in various ways including his teacher, music critic, psychologist, and ex girlfriend, He arranged for each of them to be on the same plane that he crashes into his parent's house. Pasternak's very short wild act of revenge is humorously depicted by the over the top actors and script.

In "Bombita", a demolition engineer gets back at the transit bureaucracy that unreasonably towed his car, refused to listen to his side of the story, made him late for his daughter's birthday, and gets him fired when news of the ruckus he created hits the media. After his car gets towed again as he is applying for a new job, he plants explosives in his car, purposely parks it where it will be towed and then detonates the explosives while the car is in the towed-car lot. No one is hurt, the man goes to jail, but his trial exposes the corruption of the towing company and the city. A humorous last scene is his birthday celebration in jail with his wife and daughter attending and presenting him a cake decorated with a toy tow truck.

In "Las Ratas", a roadside diner cook with a decadent past, adds rat poison to the meal served to a loan shark who ruined the family of the young waitress. The violent loan shark isn't affected by the poison but does get what he deserves in the context of these slightly savage stories.

The wedding party vignette, "Hasta que la muerte nos separe" breaks into looney toons chaos as accusations of infidelity fly at the reception but the story ends happily ever after.

Two more vignettes round out the six. Each has a definite Latin sensibility with passionate emotional outbursts, class inequality consciousness, upper class righteousness, and bureaucratic corruption. Very innovative, somewhat Hitchcockian with the flavor of Tarantino violence, Wild Tales was considered by one of our more serious critics, as one of the funniest movies he has seen in a long time and noted the creative camera angles, for example the camera view from inside the luggage bin. Those who enjoyed the humor, didn't take the violent vengeful acts seriously but rode the wave of wish fulfillment as characters were pushed to the edge.

A couple low scores of 1 and 2.5 deflated the generally buoyant ratings of multiple 4s and even a 4.5 on our scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best) resulting in a mostly positive 3.5.



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See you at the movies!  
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