



FILM: **WONDER WOMAN**

FDG RATING: 3. ☺☺☺○○

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

Patty Jenkins: *Director*

Gal Gadot: *Actress, Wonder Woman*

Chris Pine: *Actor, Captain Steve Trevor*

DATE: July 23, 2017

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **WONDER WOMAN**

Some of us remember Lynda Carter as the gorgeous super hero, Wonder Woman, who was the ultimate empowered female. An intelligent, beautiful, strong, ageless, Amazon princess, whose metal bracelets could deflect bullets and her magic golden lasso would force people to obey and tell the truth when bound with it.

Well, Gal Gadot, as the new Wonder Woman, is even more fantastic. An Israeli model and actress, who also spent 2 years as an officer in the Israeli Army, she manages to portray grueling strength with the perfect balance of curiosity, sincerity, beauty, and compassion. She is in complete control of her destiny as we see early on when she decides to disobey her mother and break into the heavily guarded armory on her idyllic island to steal the Amazon's mythical sword, the "god killer," before heading to Europe to help save humanity.

The first part of the film takes place on the secluded, utopian island Themyscira, created by the gods of Olympus. Most of us felt the scenes on the island dragged a bit but were necessary to establish the back story about how, Diana, princess of the Amazons, is trained in the art of war by her aunt, Antiope.

The action and dazzling visual special effects really start when a charming pilot, Captain Steve Trevor, played by Chris Pine, crash-lands on the island and tells of conflict in the outside world. Diana leaves behind the only life she's ever known, heading to late 1910s London to stop the war which she believes is instigated by the god Ares. We thought it a bit odd that the time zone location is WWI but according to the writers, the parallelism between the predicament in 1918 and now, makes the film's narrative much more relatable despite its fantastical aspects. And the battle scenes fighting the Germans were definitely fantastic with gravity defying aerial fights and multiple speeding arrows simultaneously hitting their mark.

We thoroughly appreciated the role reversal as the Captain is somewhat subservient to the extremely confident Diana who comes into her full super hero powers as the battles escalate. Their relationship is also sprinkled with some humorous dialog that one resident reviewer thought sounded a bit hokey, but maybe it's just the comic book conversation style portrayed on the big screen.

Perhaps our 2nd favorite character was Wonder Woman's evil nemesis, Doctor Poison, a disfigured chemist who is testing a new deadly gas to be used as chemical war fare. She is a James Bond type of villain, the epitome of dark, ugly, evil. And then there is the almighty, Ares God of War, a nasty, huge, Darth Vader looking figure, driving the brutal conflict, who wants to escalate the battles because he derives his power and strength from the conflict of men.

With super spy, or super hero male characters dominating so many films, it's well overdue to have this powerful iconic female reemerge on the big screen with such phenomenal force. One of our more knowledgeable super hero film aficionados, who loved the movie, noted that Dell comic book super hero films don't measure up to the glory of Marvel comic book super hero films. And although most agreed the 141 minute film was about 20 minutes too long, almost all of us, even those who are not super fond of super-hero films, enjoyed being entertained by the story of Wonder Woman. The film won a slightly less than heroic 3 on our scale of 1 to 5. 5 is the best.



See you at the movies!

Adriane Dedic, adedic@pacbell.net

[Film Discussion Group](#) (FDG) organizer