

## P19 The French Dispatch Feedback

I would rate Tuesday's film a great big 5. No comment!!

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Entertaining but ...

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It was as if Wes Anderson had taken his style to its ultimate conclusion and all other considerations were somehow subordinate. The problem is that somehow something was lost. In other Anderson films there is generally a sympathetic character whose adventures help provide a golden thread, in this case the magazine failed to provide that continuity. Shout out to Jeffrey Wright for a near perfect vocal impersonation of James Baldwin.

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What a waste of my time. I think I must be on a very different wavelength to Wes Anderson. Despite some great actors I felt the film was self indulgent and at times farcical. Not a great film to end what I think has sadly, not been a great season of films.

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Highly original and with a stellar cast, but also too long and too slow. Each 'article' should have been shorter and tighter.

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I felt my concentration waning at times, it was intriguing.

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I didn't understand a lot of what was said, but I enjoyed every minute of it!

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I enjoyed parts of this film - particularly the middle section - but struggled towards the end. It was visually attractive and fairly entertaining but hard to follow at times and I grew weary of the format towards the end. Am pleased to have made it through a Wes Anderson film but not sure that I will rush back for another!

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I'm not a great Wes Anderson fan. His films always feel like style over substance to me. You get the idea after 30 mins and really, that's enough!

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Bonkers, but brilliantly so, although it could have been half an hour shorter.

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Self indulgent film that really did not care about its audience.

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Found it boring and incomprehensible (as it was in English there were no subtitles which I find useful being rather deaf). Left halfway through.

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Frankly, this was baffling but not in a good way.

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I was expecting a comedy. I found nothing to laugh at in this film and, unfortunately, did not have a clue what it was about.

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I am sure I'm in the minority. I found it pretentious and self indulgent and hated the whole thing, especially the French stereotyping. Unfortunately, I was sitting in the middle of a row and couldn't escape till the end! However generally I am very pleased with your choices.

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The cast appeared to be having a lot more fun than we did as the cinema audience.

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A fairly typical Wes Anderson offering, with some excellent acting cameos amid the surrealism.

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TBH, I'm a bit deaf, so the biggest problem was the lack of subtitles throughout which mean he missed a lot. A first time viewing of a Wes Anderson for him so he found it a bit manic and he feels that he would get more from a 2<sup>nd</sup> viewing. As would everyone.

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I thought it was funny, pertinent, different but still very Wes Anderson albeit with a less manic feel. I was less exhausted at the end than I have been in some of his other films.

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This is the only film I have not enjoyed at Richmond Film Society. Pretentious and rarely engaging. It was at times beautiful to look at and had excellent cinematography, but that's all I can find to recommend it.

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A generous 4. I am a huge Wes Anderson fan and I had really wanted to see this film on a full size screen but I could not engage in any of the characters or follow any narrative. Anderson can still be forgiven as many of his other films are a delight.

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Gripping storylines and superb narration combined with amusing graphics kept me entertained. So much to see and hear makes me want to watch again.

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Sad the season finished with such an awful film. It was no doubt supposed to be clever. It is a shame you had to go to such lengths to obtain permission to show it. Well, it was too clever for me and I obviously don't have an American sense of humour. The American dialogue was often so fast that it was impossible to understand and the subtitles so small by the time you had managed to decipher one bit they had disappeared.

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Actually, the third time I have seen this in the cinema and it gets better with every viewing! A wonderful way to end a wonderful season of the film society. Thank you to the committee for all your hard work in selecting the films and providing us with a great viewing experience.

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I found this film a bit odd and a bit boring, despite a couple of faint laughs. I found myself checking my watch when I wasn't playing spot the celebrity actor. One of the slowest in a season of predominantly slow films.

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I can't tell you how much I was looking forward to this film as a bit of light relief after a run of some quite difficult and depressing ones. But I struggled with it from the start. Seemed more like a loose series of vignettes cobbled together to make a film and I found it hard to follow. Too clever for its own good and such a waste of the fabulous all-star cast.

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Original, inventive, slightly crazy and almost too clever.

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It was difficult at first to gain an idea of what was going on because of my preconceived ideas. I really enjoyed the cartoons which gave another view of events. It took its time and sometimes was rather too slow for me but on the whole, I enjoyed the film and it's 'story book' quality. One thing that needed to be slower were the translations into English as I missed part of the explanations.

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Enjoyed it more this second viewing. Sadly, by the nature of there being distinct episodes some are always stronger than others. Nevertheless, a great way to finish off the season. Wasn't it fantastic to be back!

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You certainly saved the best for last. It was like a who's who of famous actors, most of their names, at the time, were on the tip of my tongue, but.... There was so much action on screen, I just couldn't keep up. Can you please show it again next season?

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Blasé-sur-Ennui was what I was feeling before the film had progressed very far. I couldn't buy into the silly stories and the Keystone-cop-like capers.

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The notes state that the location of Ennui-sur-blasé was Angoulême. True, but the car licence plates all include "75", which was the number for Paris at that time. And many of the film's episodes clearly refer to Paris: The city map resembles that of Paris, and the metro station is modelled on one type of Parisian station. One section clearly reflects the "événements" of 1968, such as the student radio station and the bizarre remote-control chess game between the mayor and a student. In some ways, French Dispatch is a series of episodes from the Goon Show, set in 1960s France, as conceived by knowledgeable Americans. The backgrounds of shops and apartment blocks are in most cases clearly authentic, as is for example the female student residence "Chambres des filles". When there was dialogue in French, the English subtitles were so small and lasted such a short time that they were hard to follow. "Offbeat humour" was mentioned in the notes: a very apt description of a series of episodes loosely strung together by the eponymous newspaper.

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I hadn't seen a film directed by Wes Anderson before so it took time to adjust to his quirky style. The first episode was the one that has stayed with me. I would certainly like to see it again and will look out for another one directed by him.

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