

Café Society – film at Conca Verde on 21.11.16 presented by Adrian Chapman

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Adrian Chapman and I work for Anderson House the best language school in Bergamo! I am here this evening to tell you a little something about the film you are about to see and the people involved in its production.

The film

Café Society is a 2016 American romantic comedy-drama film written and directed by Woody Allen. It stars Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart, and Steve Carell. Heywood "Woody" Allen (born Allan Stewart Konigsberg, December 1, 1935) is an American actor, comedian, filmmaker, playwright, and musician, whose career spans more than six decades. This is Woody Allen's 53rd directed film dating back to a time before his first real claim to fame, the film *Anne Hall* in 1977. Woody Allen's career has had many successes including films such as *Manhattan*, *Hannah and Her Sisters*, *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, *Midnight in Paris* and *Match Point*. Allen has won Four Oscars and ten BAFTA plus many other numerous awards. Allen once quoted - life doesn't imitate art, it imitates bad television. One of the main actresses Kirsten Stewart is probably better known for falling in love with vampires and werewolves, (strange girl). In the twilight film series. This time she'll have to settle for a human being. Jesse Eisenberg's best role to date is the academy award nominated role as Mark Zuckerberg in the film *The Social Network* – the film about Facebook and its founder. Steve Carell actor, comedian, director, *received* a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Television Series for his work on *The Office*. His breakthrough film was the comedy *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*.

The plot

The plot follows a young man who moves to Los Angeles to work for his uncle who is a talent agent. Set in the 1930s, Woody Allen's bittersweet romance *CAFÉ SOCIETY* follows Bronx-born Bobby Dorfman (Jesse Eisenberg) to Hollywood, where he falls in love, with his uncle's assistant. And then back to New York, where he is swept up in the vibrant world of high society nightclub life. Centring on events in the lives of Bobby's colourful Bronx family, the film is a glittering valentine to the movie stars, socialites, playboys, debutantes, politicians, and gangsters who epitomized the excitement and glamour of the age. *Café Society*, pulses with a palpable longing for that which was and will never be again. It is Allen's love letter to Old Hollywood. In "Café Society," the filmmaker is feeling nostalgic about Hollywood. Not the Hollywood he knows – or rather, the Hollywood he sliced and diced so expertly in "Annie Hall." He's thinking Barbara Stanwyck and Errol Flynn, William Powell and Irene Dunne, Howard Hawks and Bette Davis. Think, a Turner Classic Movie Festival. "Café Society" divides its time between upscale Hollywood – swimming pools, movie stars – and upscale Manhattan – politicos, well-heeled mobsters.

Taglines: The tagline for this movie was – "Anyone who is anyone will be seen at Café Society".

The film had its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival on May 11, 2016 and was theatrically released in the United States on July 15, 2016, by Amazon Studios and Lionsgate. It received generally positive reviews and grossed over \$24 million.

Critical response

On Rotten Tomatoes, the film has an approval rating of 69%, based on 197 reviews, with an average rating of 6.1/10. The site's critical consensus reads, "*Café Society's* lovely visuals and charming performances round out a lightweight late-period Allen comedy whose genuine pleasures offset its

amiable predictability." On Metacritic, the film has a score of 64 out of 100, based on 37 critics, indicating "generally favourable reviews"

Trivia

The Origins of café society were socialites who regularly frequented fashionable nightclubs, resorts, etc. "Café Society" was a phrase coined by Maury Henry Biddle Paul in 1915 to describe the "beautiful people" who socialized and threw parties in the high profile cafés and restaurants in New York, Paris, and London.

Café Society was a New York City nightclub opened by Barney Josephson in 1938, at Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village. The club also prided itself on treating black and white customers equally, unlike many venues, such as the Cotton Club, that featured black performers but barred black customers except for prominent blacks in the entertainment industry. This is the first time that Woody Allen has narrated a film without appearing on screen since Radio Days (1987).

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Thank you for your attention – enjoy the film.