

Focus on Film

Mr. and Mrs. Adelman

Drama
Comedy

Sunday, May 12, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

Director: *Nicholas Bedos, 2017 France, Belgium*

Running time: *120 minutes, French with English subtitles*

Chronicling four decades in the life of a quintessentially French couple, **Mr. and Mrs. Adelman** reveals the highs and lows, passions and betrayals, pontifications and intellectual manipulations of a writer and his wife from the 1970s to the present day. Nicholas Bedos and Doria Tillier co-wrote and star in this sprawling dramedy about a French couple who spend more than 40 years in a love-hate relationship.

Kicking off in 1971, the movie tells the story of budding author Victor who, when he is not whining to his psychiatrist is trying very hard to be the next Albert Camus. He seems to be going nowhere fast before he crosses paths with Sarah, a brilliant doctoral student of poetry who falls head-over heels for him, and after a complicated courtship, finally seals the deal.

While their relationship starts off as an awkwardly camal affair, it soon becomes clear that their true calling resolves around Victor's writing, which Sarah assists in more ways than one, especially after she

allows him to use her Jewish last name to sign his first novel about a family of Holocaust survivors. After Victor gets the prestigious Goncourt Prize he becomes a literary superstar while Sarah lingers sadly in the shadows. As they age, they go through the usual marital episodes of cruelty, infidelity and reconciliation.

Sarah plays the role of a woman hiding behind her man and suffering for it, though the way she keeps coming back to Victor is hard to believe. Is he really that appealing despite decades of reprehensible behavior and utter selfishness, or is there something hidden behind Sarah's ongoing attraction that we simply cannot see?

Just when we thought we had gleaned a sliver of truth, the final act involves a major twist and secrets are revealed!

Reviewed by Jose & Noemi Mirkin

(excerpts from J. Mintzer, *Hollywood Reporter* and from *France Today Editors*)

THE LENORE MARWIL
DETROIT JEWISH
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