

Arts & Entertainment

FILM REVIEW: Olivia Colman Delivers Oscar-Winning Performance in 'The Favourite'

by Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

Queen Anne (1665-1714) was a sickly monarch whose dozen-year reign ran from 1702 to 1714. She was also married to Prince George of Denmark from 1683 until he passed away at Kensington Palace in 1708.

Although Anne was unable to produce an heir, it wasn't from a lack of trying. She was pregnant 17 times, but most of her babies either miscarried or were stillborn, and the handful carried to term died during infancy. The Queen coped with the loss by raising 17 pet rabbits, one for each offspring, a curious way to grieve, indeed.

Until now, Anne and George have been generally remembered as having been faithful and devoted partners. But you can add "The Favourite"



The Favourite

be frustrated by "The Favourite" than your average fan of the costume drama genre. The carefully-constructed crowd-pleaser was nominated for ten Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director (Yorgos Lanthimos) and Best Original Screenplay.

Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone co-star opposite Colman, as a duchess and a servant vying for the manipulative monarch's affections.

At the point of departure, we find Lady Sarah (Weisz) already attending to every need of an obese queen crippled by gout. The two are also secretly conducting a passionate, forbidden affair.

But when Abigail (Stone) arrives on the scene, Anne's head is turned by the attractive young maid. A subtle power struggle ensues, as each of the subjects does her best to become the queen's constant companion. Meanwhile, Anne's real-life hubby, George, is conveniently absent entirely from the tale.

The three female leads in this lesbian love triangle were nominated, too, although Olivia Colman landed the movie's sole Oscar for her memorable performance as dominating Queen Anne.

“A British history buff is more likely to be frustrated by “The Favourite” than your average fan of the costume drama genre

to the long list of revisionist sagas which deign to impose present-day values while ignoring long-standing, conventional wisdom.

So, a British history buff is more likely to

A fabricated romantic romp for folks more concerned about a historical drama's entertainment value than its commitment to the facts.

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated R for profanity, nudity and graphic sexuality

Running time: 119 min.

Production: Element Pictures, Scarlet Films, Film4 Productions, Waypoint Entertainment

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resa (Veronica Garcia), who lives with them, too.

Meanwhile, Cleo and her fellow nanny, Adela (Nancy Garcia), dutifully assume the bulk of the child-rearing and housekeeping duties. Both of these servants hail from humble roots, being uneducated peasants of Mixteco, native Mexican heritage.

Yet, like typical young women, they do dream of someday escaping their lowly station to start families of their own. And each has a romantic interest. Cleo's is Fermin (Jorge Antonio Guerrero), a cousin of Adela's boyfriend, Ramon (Jose Manuel Guerrero Mendoza).

The plot thickens the evening the two couples go on a double date to a movie theater. Against her better judgment, Cleo leaves early with Fermin who has reserved a motel room where they share an evening of passionate, unprotected sex.

She ends up pregnant, and a moment of truth arrives when her baby-daddy reacts

badly to the news that he's about to become a father. So, now she has to worry whether she'll be fired when she tells Sofia that she's knocked up.

Thus unfolds "Roma," a semi-autobiographical, dysfunctional family drama written and directed by Alfonso Cuaron. Set in Mexico City in the 1970s, this impressionistic saga shot in black & white more than makes up in atmosphere what it might lack in meaningful dialogue.

Kudos to Cuaron for crafting such a visually-captivating, surreal memoir of his troubled coming of age!

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated R for profanity, disturbing images and graphic nudity

In Spanish and Mixtec with subtitles.

Running time: 135 min.

Production Companies: Esperanto Filmoj / Participant Media

Distributor: Netflix

To see a trailer for Roma, visit: TheSkanner.com.



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