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“Some Like It Hot” – A Movie that Speaks for Itself

Fancy, crazy, erotic, mysterious, unique and simply hilarious – these character traits should describe Wilder’s “Some Like It Hot” pretty well. The comedy, which came out in 1959 plays in the prohibition-era in Chicago, during the year of 1929.

Considering that the story took place in the roaring twenties, the movie includes some scenes that show a society that likes to party, wear provocative outfits and tends to cross new boundaries. In the midst of a Valentine’s Day massacre, the two musicians Joe and Jerry manage to escape, but there is still one problem: Even though the close friends play in a lively band, run by Spats Colombo, they are broke. Therefore, the only way for them to make a living again is to join Sweet Sue’s “All-girl band”, which only consists of girls.

At this point, the seemingly sketchy movie turns into a comedy as Joe and Jerry dress up as girls, which makes Joe become Josephine and Jerry become Daphne. Not only do the young gentlemen have to dress like young women and style their hair as if they were females, they also have to change their voices in order to sound like a woman. In dresses and wigs the young men immediately change their identities, wearing dresses and wigs. Considering that every watcher has heard their original voices at the beginning of the movie, it is extraordinarily amusing to see Joe and Jerry go through these boundaries, which they manage with charm and enthusiasm.

Therefore, the gender switch can be regarded as the first turning point in the movie when Joe and Jerry do end up finding a job, even under the strangest of circumstances.

While pretending to be women, one of the hardest challenges for both Joe and Jerry is to act as if they were not into women. This drama becomes an issue when the guys meet the attractive young lady Sugar Kane at the train station of Chicago as they go on the train that takes them to Florida.

At first, Joe and Jerry as Josephine and Daphne, only watch her walk in her heels, but both instantly feel attracted to her. However, since they know they have to always stay in their roles, there is no way they can get with Sugar.

During the train ride, the audience immediately gets to see that there are strict rules. As usual when it comes to strict rules, people are going to break them. That is also the case here. At night, when everybody goes to sleep, the night turns into a party, initiated by the scandalous Sugar.

Therefore, the night can be regarded as a foreshadowing effect to the mysterious, which always comes up when Joe and Jerry are with Sugar.

During the ride, Sugar gets closer with Josephine and tells her about her plans of getting married to a young Florida man. At the same time, ancient Osgood Fielding feels an attraction to Daphne, even though Daphne is attracted by Sugar as well.

Arriving in Florida, everybody stays at a hotel room. As Joe and Jerry room together, there are times when they can take a break from being women for a while, even though that "break" never lasts for too long. The scenes when people walk in are very entertaining as Joe and Jerry have to go back to their roles all of a sudden.

Even though it almost seems as if someone is going to notice that something is off, the young gentlemen always manage to hide their adrenaline and big fear of getting caught by smiling the awkwardness away, which makes the movie very fun to watch.

Even though Joe and Jerry are aware that there is no chance anyone can end up with Sugar being themselves, Josephine finds a way to go out with Sugar by pretending to be "Junior", the heir to Shell Oil. Consequently, Junior takes Sugar to his yacht, where Sugar takes away his fears of becoming sexually active again. The scenes switch between them and Osgood and Daphne, who keep dancing together the whole night after watching a show. Joe had convinced Jerry to make sure he would stay with Osgood all night in order to make sure Joe could stay at Osgood's yacht with Sugar. The switch of both scenes after another bring up the craziness that the young gentlemen have gotten into.

Being wound up from his night with Osgood, Jerry tells Joe that he is engaged. He plans on marrying Osgood and revealing the truth right after, so that he can live on the alimony the rest of his life.

Joe is nothing but skeptical about his friend's plan but finds the diamond bracelet that Osmond gave him. Joe suggests to not send it back, intending to send it to Sugar, which makes Jerry angry.

However, the first culmination point happens when one of the Spats, who have arrived at the hotel to meet with the mob leader, seem to recognize Daphne and Josephine. After an extremely dangerous hunt the guys manage to escape and jump into a boat at the dock where Osgood is waiting. Sugar follows them and they all escape together.

Sugar has fallen in love with Junior and believes that he is the right man for her. Under the moonlight Joe kisses Sugar after taking off his wig. At the same time Daphne confesses to Osgood that he is a man.

At this point, every watcher would expect Osgood to be mad and show a corresponding reaction, but instead, his answer is "Nobody's perfect", which leaves the audience break out in laughters, but also raises potentially fair questions.

What is it that made Osmond react as if it does not bother him? Is he possibly gay? What does this say about society in the roaring twenties? Is it even fair to live a lie just by changing genders?

But what if Joe and Jerry's behavior is justified, considering that they needed to make money?

The movie presumably has lead to a lot of controversy anyways, but undoubtedly leaves a lot of questions open.

Perhaps one of the biggest issue that the movie depicts rotates around decision, as the decisions made by Joe and Jerry lead to the drama that follows. Since Joe makes most decisions by himself, he can be considered as the protagonist, since Jerry simply follows his directions, despite his complaints. Joe's objective is to escape from the gangsters at the massacre and save their lives again by getting a job, even though getting a job is already an obstacle itself under the circumstance of pretending to be a woman. Not only do they have to act very strongly and are not allowed to show any doubts about their roles, they also have to act female towards woman, which is incredibly hard for someone, who is not trained to act like the opposite gender. Moreover, they have been confronted with dangerous situations from the beginning, but have kept their cool throughout the movie, even when they

are almost caught at the end which shows big strength, determination and perseverance. There are situations that create tension, fear and anxiety constantly, but it seems as if the two gentlemen become stronger and more determined after each obstacle.

The story develops from a serious murder into a comedy full of funny and hilarious scenes by characters that are passionately driven by their role of musicians.

Throughout the drama it almost seems as if one might forget about their passion of music, which ever single one of them shares. Not only are they passionate about music, they are also passionate about life, which makes them share joy and love with their fellow men.

All in all, "Some like it hot" is a comedy full of tension, fun, anxiety and a lot of passion, which makes people laugh and feel excitement. It goes back to a time period where gender topics were a tabu theme , however it became a big success after the movie came out in 1959. Therefore, the movie can be recommended to anyone who like to share these kinds of emotions and who likes to identify with people going on adventures.