

'Enough Said' a great farewell to Gandolfini



By Jeremy Miller

"Enough Said" is a masterpiece written and directed by Nicole Holofcener. It stars James Gandolfini, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Catherine Keener and Toni Collette.

Eva (Dreyfus) is a middle-aged divorced massage therapist. She's the quirkiest, yet most incredibly charming character I've seen in a long time. Her path crosses with Albert (Gandolfini) who's in pretty much the same boat. They're both moved on from failed relationships and they aren't necessarily looking for anything either. They meet at a party thrown by some of the higher ups on the social strata and each character seems to not fit quite right.

Their meeting is pretty low-key, but from the get-go you know these two have something refreshing.

Another positive from the party is that Eva picked up another client named Marianne (Keener) who's an earth friendly hippie type. They form a pretty cliché friendship and start hanging out on a regular basis.

Simultaneously Eva and Albert go on a few dates that are full of quirky indie-romantic humor. I loved it because it really broke the mold of the "ideal scene" that 99 percent of all romantic comedies tend to fit and show what real dates are

like. There's imperfect conversation, awkward moments, tension and flaws that I've always wanted to see characters exhibit in a romance movie.

In the meantime, Eva and Marianne find comfort in the fact that they can talk about their past marriages and vent about all the terrible times they had with their former partners and get down some good old-fashion girl talk. Throw in a bunch of perfect "best friend" humor in the form of her pal Sarah (Collette) who's blunt and borderline emotionally unstable and boy are there some laughs.

Eva starts to build something pretty nice for herself in the relationship department, but what's a movie without conflict? Enter in the fact that her newfound bestie and boyfriend were once married, and all that bad-mouthing that Marianne was spewing was about the man Eva's now falling for. Eva does what any human being would and starts pulling for more. She's essentially getting "the other side of the story" in an attempt to either protect herself or save a lot of time and heartache.

The film crescendos when everyone finds out about everything; and boy is it rough to watch (in a hysterically tense kind of way). I loved this movie for so many reasons; mostly because of how much reality it brought to the table. Its realism was perfectly balanced with its subtle charm. Every actor brought his or her A-game on this one, and what a way for Gandolfini to end his career.

I had a hard time watching it because of the fact that I knew it was his last. His performance was one of the most personal and equally sentimental that he's ever done. The chemistry he shared with Julia Louis-Dreyfus was absolutely flawless, touching and all around heart-warming. They bounced back and forth with the wittiest conversations that really made you wish you were that funny.

The ending was perfect. It gave you just enough to leave you satisfied and not too much to where you're begging for the credits to roll as you're drowned in overly scripted romantic mush.

James Gandolfini was so incredibly talented; it's really tough to know that I won't be writing any more reviews with him in them. I miss him and salute him for one of the most well rounded, beautifully crafted careers in film and television in history. RIP Jim, and from the bottom of my heart thanks for everything.

South Lake Tahoe resident Jeremy Miller has more movie reviews online.