

Arts & Life

Chick Flick Alert! A review of Julie/Julia

by Dabney Farmer
Staff Writer

The story is about the well-known cook Julia Childs and a frustrated Manhattan Development Corporation worker Julie Powell. Ms. Powell (Amy Adams) decides to write about her yearlong culinary quest to cook all 524 recipes in Julia Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, starting a blog which gains the interest of the food crowd. Meanwhile, the film flashes back to time Julia Child (Meryl Streep) and her husband Paul (Stanley Tucci) spent in Paris during the 1940s and 1950s, while trying to get her cookbook published.

I enjoyed the Julie part (in current time) and her frustration with cooking better than Julia Child's long drawn out attempts of getting her book published. Julie has the funnier part as we see her being scared about deboning a duck, and feel her guilt

about having to boil live lobsters. My favorite scene is when she messes up the recipes, which don't happen much, and she's crying hysterically on the kitchen floor. The original Julia Child just didn't interest me as much. She had her moments but her acting was just so over the top with that ridiculous accent that it got annoying. Still it is not a bad movie, just not really a laugh out loud funny movie. That said, if you love cooking then by all means see it. It is a warm, gentle, charming movie.

The movie is based off of two different books, *My Life in France*, Child's autobiography, and a memoir by Julie Powell that was originally a blog. Both books were adapted by Nora Ephron (writer-



director) and were written and published in the same time frame of 2004 to 2006. Apparently the thought was it would be much more interesting to combine the two and make into a movie. Not a bad idea since both stories probably would fail to capture the movie audiences all on their own. Still while the idea may be cute, it is hard to bridge the generation gap and fifty years difference in time to appeal to all audiences. If you love cooking and recall Julia Childs

fine for you. If you enjoy cute girls trying to make it on their own than that works also, but the combination is a little like classic cuisine mixed with fast food fare. It would be better served as two separate dishes in my opinion. By the way this is also the first movie that was based on a blog.



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