



camden libraries

Movie Club

Midnight in Paris (2011)

1. Woody Allen is known for a distinct film style. Allen frequently incorporates sarcasm and wit to create comedic satire. There is often a central character that is a reflection of Woody himself. Themes of nostalgia are common, and there is a strong portrayal of a city. Discuss how this film does or does not fit this style.
2. What is different in the 1920s world that Gil travels to each night? Does the film romanticise or criticise this nostalgic view of Paris?
3. Do you think what Gil sees and does at midnight is real or imaginary?

“Allen [Woody] makes no attempt to explain this magic. None is needed. Nor do we have to decide if what happens is real or imaginary.”

– Roger Ebert <http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/midnight-in-paris-2011>

4. Do you think the film is centred around the city of Paris, or the character of Gil viewing the city. Which is the focus, city or character?

“But ‘Midnight in Paris’ is not about the city as much as it is about the American fascination with and romanticization of Paris. Allen employs the tales Americans have constructed about the City of Light to ruminate on larger themes of nostalgia, memory, and history.” – Jeffrey H. Jackson <http://h-france.net/fffh/the-buzz/midnight-in-paris/>

5. The scenes set in the past depict a clichéd and idealised version of the famous people depicted. These characters are presented as the stereotype they have become. How does this fuel Gil’s romantic view of nostalgia and Paris?