

(Film, 2011)

MIDNIGHT IN PARIS

Directed by Woody Allen
Review by James Madden

Midnight in Paris sees the successful continuation of Woody Allen's "later European renaissance films", joining the likes of *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* and *Match Point*.

For Gil (a neurotic Owen Wilson, based upon Woody Allen), Paris is a magical place. Whether by day, night or in the rain, Paris intoxicates him. His fiancé Inez (Rachel McAdams) and her parents (Kurt Fuller and Mimi Kennedy) are less impressed. After a painfully numbing day with Inez's American friend (a pedantically irritating Michael Sheen), Gil is transported to 1920s Paris by way of an era-appropriate car.

Enter a seductive selection of writers, musicians and artists of the time, including the likes of F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Salvador Dalí and Gertrude Stein. Gil also meets the enchanting Marion Cotillard and keeps visiting each night.

The results create a magical fantasy world comparable to Allen's terrific *The Purple Rose of Cairo*. *Midnight in Paris* wonderfully blends nostalgia and a yearning for the past alongside the disappointing reality of the present. The casting is simply superb and Paris looks effervescently beautiful. It seems Mr. Allen has made another instant classic.

Midnight in Paris will be released 20 October.