

Movie Presentation

Yes Man

Cynthia Yamashita, Sarah Hendricks, & Brian Johnson

Have you ever seen a movie that so deeply impressed you, that you left the theater feeling renewed? Like you couldn't wait to start the next day of your life because you were going to do it different? This is how the movie *Yes Man* affected me. The movie was widely publicized & includes several pretty well known actors such as Jim Carey, Zooey Deschanel, & Bradley Cooper. Big blockbusters such as these do not often highly impress me. But this movie was different.

This movie is about a man named Carl, played by the hilarious Jim Carey. Carl is a man that has been badly heartbroken by his ex-wife, Stephanie. Carl has become withdrawn from friends & has become almost numb to life. He goes through the motions of everyday life, such as work, but turns down any opportunity that puts him outside of the comfortable routine he's created for himself. The beginning of the movie shows Carl being told he was not chosen for a promotion, and the incredible lack of emotion shows how he's disconnected himself from feeling. He does portray this in a very humorous way, however, which continues throughout the entire movie making it highly entertaining. An early scene in the movie shows Carl in the video store, picking up some movies, & is seen by his best friend, Peter. Peter calls Carl's cell phone & asked him to come & meet him for drinks, but Carl tells Peter he can't because he's very busy. So, Peter just calls him out on it & tells Carl that he's looking at him right now, watching him pick out a movie to watch. Even after being called out on, he still tried with all power to say no. This was one of the scenes showing just how resistant Carl was to stepping outside his comfort

zone. But Peter would not take no for an answer, & forces Carl to come to the bar with him.

Not long after being in the bar, Carl sees, of all people, his ex-wife Stephanie. The run-in does not go well & Carl leaves the bar, feeling even more content to never go out again, than he already did.

But the next day, something important happens. He's sitting outside his office, eating lunch, & an old friend recognizes him & stops to chat. This old friend, Nick, is vivacious & enthusiastic & almost annoyingly full of life. He picks up on Carl's negative, cynical attitude right away & decides to share with Carl a new philosophy of life that he's been living by. Nick is a "yes man". He proceeds to tell Carl about a seminar he went to that teaches you to say "yes" to life. He elaborates by sharing that he says "yes" to everything in life & realized that by doing so, he actually started *living*. Nick invites Carl to the seminar, but Carl, of course, is resistant & skeptical & didn't appear to even be considering it. But later that night, Carl has a terrible dream that he dies on his couch. His friends walk in & see him lying there, dead, and are barely affected by it. They even say how it doesn't matter much because he never showed up for anything anyway. At that moment, Carl decides to attend the seminar.

At this seminar, Carl is singled right out, thanks to his friend Nick. The instructor gets right up in Carl's face, and tells him that when he says "no", he is saying "no" to life, and therefore, is not living. The instructor puts what feels like a curse on Carl; telling him that he **MUST** say "yes" to everything.

Carl leaves the seminar and decides to try it, of course, with the persuasion of Nick. He finds himself giving money to homeless man, letting the homeless man use his cell phone, & even gives the homeless man a ride. This results in him running out of gas, with no phone, & no

cash. A beautiful woman on a scooter, Allison, stops to offer him a ride. In keeping with the new life, he says yes.

The movie then continues with him experiencing all kinds of crazy things: red-bull all-nighters with friends, early jogs in the park photographing the city, bar-fights & more. He experiences many of these things with Allison and they quickly find themselves in love.

But of course, as with all great stories, there is another turn of events. Carl & Allison take a spontaneous trip and on the way back, Carl is stopped by the FBI. He is suspected as being a terrorist. This suspicion is based on the many things he'd been doing lately that didn't make sense. Carl gets Peter to come help him out as Peter is a lawyer. Peter explains to the feds Carl's "yes man" life style. Well, Allison hears this & becomes very upset. You see, she had just barely asked Carl to move in with her. Now she was questioning everything she & Carl had done together, not knowing if he had ever even wanted to do any of those things or if he just did because he had to. Allison storms out of the airport & Carl spends the rest of the movie trying to get her back.

Finally Allison allows herself to hear Carl out. He's finally realized that although it is very important to embrace life, & to experience as much as possible, he must be honest to himself & others. He must do things that he wants to do because he genuinely wants to and doesn't have to do everything that is presented to him. He has the choice.

In conclusion, I was very impressed with this movie. It slowed me down a little bit. It reminded me that it's important to seize opportunity. Although we don't need to say "yes" to everything, often times when you do, you end up experiencing something you never would have

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otherwise. And with everything we experience, we learn more about ourselves, and build relationships that might last forever.