

**The Man from Earth-2007:** Where the mystery of aging is perhaps not so mysterious....

Who has not fantasized about living forever? Could we even hack it?

This movie is intellectually stimulating, philosophically fascinating and medically interesting; and, it's quietly entertaining to boot. While watching, it occurred to me the *mise en scène* - where a group of eight people meet to bid farewell to one of them, with 95% of the 'action' in one room - reminded me of *12 Angry Men* (1957), *My dinner with Andre* (1981), *The Sunset Limited* (2011); and a few others.

The stand-out feature is the script: written by the late Jerome Bixby (writer of *Star Trek* episodes and others), he explores the possibility of living for thousands of years and perhaps - theoretically - forever. This is not complete nonsense: other animals on this earth live for many hundreds of years, while flat worms and a type of jellyfish are in fact virtually immortal (according to scientific articles I researched).

So, how would you react when one in your group announces he's been walking the earth for 14,000 years? How would you begin to tackle the truth of that claim? Could you prove the claim false? Would you - mortal, vulnerable, with limited years - feel angry, cheated, or thwarted? Would you even lash out to the point of wanting to kill?

The actors do an adequate job of presenting that scenario as their reactions play through all of those emotions, and more. All the while, John Oldman (David Lee Smith) maintains his cool, calm exterior, adroitly fielding all the questions, accusations and admonitions. Hence, the script, as constructed, hangs together quite well. Towards the end, though, the discussion gets into the most sensitive areas of the human psyche - religion and spirituality - and presents a situation that will definitely offend many believers. And, if that's not enough to swallow, Bixby then adds an incisive twist which, given the scenario, is entirely logical, psychologically harrowing and cleverly convincing.

Oldman, at one stage, says he's not a "superman". Yet, to live forever, or even a mere 14,000 years, would require a "superman" intellect and perfect body. Well, the first is already possible, obviously, when considering history. It only remains to be seen whether science will eventually solve the mystery of aging. I think science will.

Given the subject matter and the presentation, this is a nine out ten movie for me. See if you agree. Recommended for all.

Rating: 9

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