



Presents

GlenVIEWINGS: The Fashionista, The Chef, and The Mom *Julie and Julia*

"What is it you *really* like to do?" – Paul Child



Director

Nora Ephron

Producer

Nora Ephron
Laurence Mark
Eric Steel
Amy Robinson

Writers

Nora Ephron
Julie Powell (book)

Starring

Meryl Streep
Amy Adams
Stanley Tucci
Chris Messina

Music

Alexandre Desplat

Cinematography

Stephen Goldblatt

Editing

Richard Marks

Distributor

Columbia Pictures

Release date

August 7, 2009

Running time

123 minutes

Budget

\$40,000,000

Box Office gross

\$122,108,261 (Worldwide)

Julie and Julia is an unabashedly sensual celebration of the joys of cooking, eating, and romance. A shared love for food connects the lives of Julia Child and Julie Powell across time. Both main characters are warmly embraced by supportive marriages, which allows writer-director Nora Ephron to deftly intercut between their dual attempts at personal reinvention without resorting to unnecessary dramatic personal conflict.

Which is not to say that both women do not have struggles to overcome. But the film is just pure fun as we watch Julia Child master the art of cooking in 1950's Paris, gamely attempting to be accepted first in the male-dominated worlds of *Le Cordon Bleu* and then publishing. Julie Powell's parallel 21st Century story of finding her identity by embracing the new medium of blogging is at times slightly bitter in comparison, but retains just enough charm and dry wit to be a nice complement.

What makes the film fairly unique are the caring, mutually respectful marriages depicted on screen. In modern cinema, relationships this pleasant to watch are as rare as Beluga caviar, and much of the film's warm, gentle tone, as well as some of the funniest comedic moments, come from the exchanges between the two married couples.

However, the lasting delight to savor is Meryl Streep's Golden Globe-winning performance, which is both satisfyingly realistic and yet irresistibly over-ripe in its playful embodiment of Julia's Child undeniable *joie de vivre* and all-encompassing fondness for food. In her scenes with Stanley Tucci (as Paul Child), the film's presentation of passion and love as being equally as important as skill and determination make *Julie & Julia* one of the sweetest films of recent times.

Did You Know?

- *Julie & Julia* was the first film to ever be based on a blog.
- Paul Child was 10 years older than Julia. In real life, Stanley Tucci is 11 years younger than Meryl Streep.
- Julie Powell followed this book with *Cleaving: A Story of Marriage, Meat and Obsession*, a memoir of her experiences learning to be a butcher.
- Nora Ephron is married to writer Nicholas Pileggi, best known for co-scripting the Martin Scorsese gangster films *Goodfellas* and *Casino*.



Presents

GlenVIEWINGS: The Fashionista, The Chef, and The Mom ***Julie and Julia***

"If no one's in the kitchen, who's to see?" – Julia Child

Things to Explore

- How do Julie and Julia's storylines complement each other? Would the film work as well if it chose only to show one story without the other?
- How does blogging affect Julie Powell's project? Do you think she would have succeeded with the cooking if she had not been blogging about it?
- In what ways does embarking on the project bring order to Julie Powell's life? In what ways does it bring disruption?
- How much does Julie Powell really know about Julia Child when she begins the project? How does Julia come to exert such a powerful influence over her?
- To what extent is the Julia Child we see in the film based on reality, or on Julie Powell's – and popular culture's – constructed image of her?
- What does the film have to say about the gender politics of cooking in different eras?
- How are Julie and Julia's marriages portrayed in the different stories? What do these relationships say about the times they are set within?
- Why do you think Julia Child didn't like Julie's blog? How do you think she would feel about sharing screen time with her?

Themes

- Reinvention
- Work/life balance
- Marriage
- Finding inspiration
- Food and cooking
- Gender politics in different eras
- Dreams and obsessions
- Style and fashion



Presents

GlenVIEWINGS: The Fashionista, The Chef, and The Mom ***Julie and Julia***

"Nobody here but us servantless American cooks..." – Julie Powell

Library Resources

1) My Life in France, Julia Child with Alex Prud'homme

Julie and Julia is based on this memoir, which details how living in Paris forever changed the life of the woman who would go on to change the way an entire nation cooked.

Copy	Material	Location
B CHILD,J. CHI	Book	Nonfiction

2) Julie and Julia : 365 days, 524 recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen: How One Girl Risked Her Marriage, Her Job, and Her Sanity to Master the Art of Living, Julie Powell

Adapted from the popular blog, Powell's memoir is a funny, open, and engaging journal of her attempts to find meaning in her life through cooking.

Copy	Material	Location
641.5 POW	Book	Nonfiction

3) Julie & Julia [videorecording (DVD)]

The DVD includes special features on the making of the film and an audio commentary with writer/director Nora Ephron.

Copy	Material	Location
DVD JUL	DVD Fiction	Audio Visual

Online Resources

www.julieandjulia.com

The film's official website, containing videos, photos, reviews, interviews, and, of course, featured blogs about food.

<http://www.facebook.com/JulieandJulia>

The film's official facebook page is no longer actively updated, but is still perhaps the best resource for engaging with the film through sharing 'food-spiration' with the large community who embraced the film.

<http://blogs.salon.com/0001399/2002/08/26.html>

Read Julie Powell's original blog here, entry-by-entry, starting from August 25, 2002. You can also read her current blog here: <http://juliepowell.blogspot.com>.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2009/aug/12/food/fo-calcook12>

The first journalist to write about Julie Powell's blog reveals the truth about what Julia Child really thought of Julie's project.



Presents

GlenVIEWINGS: The Fashionista, The Chef, and The Mom ***Julie and Julia***

"You are the butter to my bread, you are the breath to my life." - Paul Child

IF YOU LIKED *JULIE AND JULIA*...

Big Night

(Campbell Scott and Stanley Tucci/109 min/R/1996)

--A charming film with an outstanding ensemble cast, *Big Night* is the story of Primo (Tony Shaloub) and Secondo (Stanley Tucci) brothers who have traveled from Italy to New Jersey in the mid 1950s to open an authentic Italian restaurant, The Paradise. When famous Italian American bandleader Louis Prima comes to town, the brothers prepare for a 'big night'. Features Minnie Driver and Isabella Rossellini.

Chocolat

(Lasse Hallstrom/121 min/PG-13/2000)

--Based on the novel by Joanne Harris, a mysterious woman named Vianne (Juliette Binoche) moves with her daughter into to a conservative French Village dominated by the Catholic Church. A comedy of self-denial ensues when Vianne opens a confectionary shop and tempts the townspeople with the sinful worldly pleasure -- chocolate. Also stars Judi Dench and Alfred Molina. Nominated for five Academy Awards.

Mostly Martha

(Sandra Nettlebeck/105 min/PG/2001)

--Captivating drama about Martha (Martina Gedeck), a chef at a popular Hamburg restaurant who is so dedicated to her work that she has a hard time meeting new people. Martha's life is turned upside down when her sister dies suddenly in a car crash and she adopts her young niece. In German with English subtitles.

Tortilla Soup

(Maria Ripoll/102 min/PG-13/2001)

--2001 remake of Ang Lee's comedy *Eat Drink Man Women*. This ensemble family drama is set in Southern California. Martin Narajano (Hector Elizondo) is a long time chef who is losing his sense of taste and smell. Martin's three daughters indulge their father in sharing the elaborate multi-course meals he prepares for family and friends. The meals featured in the film were prepared by celebrity chefs Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feniger.

Like Water For Chocolate

(Alfonso Arau/113 min/R/1993)

--Based on the best selling novel by Maria Esquivel, this romantic fable tells the story of a young woman, Tita, who discovers her cooking has magic effects. Combines Hollywood melodrama and exotic fairytale. In Spanish with English Subtitles.

Also Directed by Nora Ephron:

***You've Got Mail* (120 min/PG/1998) • *Sleepless in Seattle* (105 min/PG/1993)**

Also Starring Meryl Streep

Information about Streep's extensive career is available at:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meryl_Streep#Filmography

Also Starring Amy Adams:

***Doubt* (John Patrick Shanley/104 min/PG-13/2008) • *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day* (Bahart Nalluri/92 min/PG-13/2008) • *Sunshine Cleaning* (Christine Jeffs/102 min/R/2008)**