

## Inception

A Review by Tom Sims, Executive Director, Cape May Film Society

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To dream, perchance to sleep... There are many, many people who thought "Inception" was the simply one of the best movies ever. Likely you are male, 13-24 years old. Clearly I'm in the minority here (oh, and a little beyond that age demographic). Although I have to give the film credit for its use of interesting special effects, it misses the mark somehow.

Maybe that's because it didn't know its mark.

Was it an action movie, a cerebral exploration, or video game? During some scenes, I wondered why I wasn't handed a joy stick with my ticket stub. I'm on this level, then that level, will I break through to the top level? Will I get shot at, blown up, or just plain sent into limbo? I love the sent into limbo part—that part rocks!

Leonardo DiCaprio plays Cobb, a skilled thief who uses the technology of his day to enter the dreams of his victims. He is given what seems to be the last chance he might have to redeem himself and see his children again. But the task is formidable, to enter a dream and actually insert an idea into the victim's mind (called "inception").

The problem is I'm not swept away by the scenes in what are supposed to be dreams. And I'm not looking for the colorful dreamscapes in a film such as "What Dreams May Come" (1998) which also didn't hit its mark. But the dream sequences here were more like a dark night in Gotham (yes, I think we all know by now that Christopher Nolan of "Dark Knight" fame was the director behind this one).

Although the acting was excellent, some of the parts were miscast. Ellen Page as DiCaprio's assistant was perhaps not the most convincing pick. And Marion Cotillard, who won the Academy Award for Best Actress for her work in "La vie en rose," was wasted here in a role as a recurring subconscious vision of DiCaprio's wife. I simply did not feel for her character or the chemistry between the two.

It would be an easy criticism to say the film was scattered. After all, you're taken through dream within dream within dream. And when you fail to facilitate suspension of disbelief with this moviegoer, all of that seems implausible! So the real problem is that I didn't get swept away by the entire film—not just its dream sequences. Still, if you go with the views of the clear majority, you will enjoy this film.

Look for our review next week of the films made at our last film camp! If you want to see them sooner, email me at [capemayfilm@hotmail.com](mailto:capemayfilm@hotmail.com) and I'll send you the link!