

Dynamic Florence Pugh Captivates in ‘Don’t Worry Darling’

Submitted by [PatrickMcD](#) [1] on September 22, 2022 - 4:39am

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Rating: **4.0/5.0**

CHICAGO – A sure hand behind the camera and a dynamic performance from Florence Pugh help “Don’t Worry Darling” pull off an extremely difficult balancing act. This isn’t a perfect movie by any stretch of the imagination, but it inspires the kind of impressions and ideas that you will still be talking about a week later.

We begin with a picture of a 1950’s suburban utopia, the kind of scene seemingly culled from images of the old LIFE magazine. The houses and their perfectly manicured lawns are a mid century modern design fever dream. Jack (Harry Styles) drives off in a fancy sports car to work at something called “The Victory Project.” At the same time, his wife Alice (Florence Pugh) acts as the idealized 50’s housewife ... gossiping, cleaning, and making sure her man has a nice dinner on the table when he comes home from work, while she sucks back four martinis during lunches at the pool, and going on shopping sprees to occupy her time.



Frank (Chris Pine) in ‘Don’t Worry Darling’

Photo credit: Warner Bros.

Florence Pugh leads the way with her dynamic and captivating performance. Harry Styles shows he’s not just a pretty pop star, turning in solid dramatic work of his own. And Wilde (who also has a small role) uses two actors best known for comedy, Nick Kroll and especially Timothy Simons (“Veep”), to great dramatic effect.

While the final act doesn’t entirely work – with one too many plot twists that I won’t spoil here – the movie manages to build enough suspense and momentum to carry it over the finish line. There’s plenty of fun and suspense to give audiences something to chew on, and that’s a welcome respite from the celluloid stories that seem to vanish from memory mere seconds after you leave the theater.

“Don’t Worry Darling” opens in theaters on September 23rd. Featuring Florence Pugh, Olivia Wilde, Harry Styles, Chris Pine, Nick Kroll, Timothy Simons and Gemma Chan. Screenplay by Katie Silberman. Directed by Olivia Wilde. Rated “R”



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