

C6675 CONSPIRACY THEORY (USA, 1997)

(Other titles: Complots; Fletcher's visionen; Ipotesi di complotto; Paranoias letales)

Credits: director, Richard Donner ; writer, Brian Helgeland.

Cast: Mel Gibson, Julia Roberts, Patrick Stewart.

Summary: Thriller set in contemporary New York City. New York City cab driver and conspiracy buff Jerry Fletcher (Gibson) tells everyone within earshot about the secret movers, shakers and assassins who really control things. When he tries to put Justice Dept. attorney Alice Sutton (Roberts) in the know, he is run out of her office. Jerry publishes a newsletter outlining his crackpot theories for five subscribers. When his most recent issue includes some particularly wild charges about the CIA, Jerry is abducted and interrogated by a deadly serious Dr. Jonas (Stewart). Jerry escapes and draws Alice into a game of hide-and-seek with Dr. Jonas and other federal agents. Jonas, it turns out, is a renegade CIA employee who once ran the Agency's mind control program to develop assassins. Jerry was one of his subjects. When the program was shut down, Jonas continued to use his subjects for private assassinations. One of their victims was Alice's father, a federal judge. A supporting character is a Black disabled Vietnam vet who runs a newsstand where Jerry gets his papers

Anthony, Todd. "Mel Gibson-Julia Roberts thriller shamelessly steals from the classics: Style over substance in Conspiracy theory" Miami herald (Aug 8, 1997), p. 5G.

Arnold, Frank. "Fletcher's visionen" EPD Film 14 (Nov 1997), p. 51.

Barovick, Harriet. "Gibson's next big splash" Life 20/8 (Aug 1997), p. 50-51.

Bernard, April P. "Conspiracy theory" Seventeen 56/8 (Aug 1997), p. 176.

Berthomieu, Pierre. "Complots" Positif n. 440 (Oct 1997), p. 50.

Birnie, Peter. "Overblown script and gimmicks take audiences for a ride" Vancouver sun (Aug 8, 1997), p. C1.

Boon, Mike. "Gibson is loony, Roberts is cheery, the paranoid will love 'Conspiracy theory'" Calgary herald (Aug 8, 1997), p. F1.

Brown, Corie. "A buddy picture" Newsweek 130/6 (Aug 11, 1997), p. 72-3.

Carr, Jay. "Stars and wit fuel 'Conspiracy theory'" Boston globe (Aug 8, 1997), Arts and film, p. D5.

Cherchi Usai, Paolo. "Ipotesi di complotto" Segnocinema n. 88 (Nov/Dec 1997), p. 42-3.

Clark, Mike. "'Conspiracy theory' is almost convincing" USA today (Aug. 8, 1997), p. "Conspiracy theory" Film review annual 1998 Englewood, N.J. : J.S. Ozer, 1981- (p. 243-49)

Denby, David. "Conspiracy theory" New York 30/32 (Aug 25, 1997), p. 148. [Reprinted in Film review annual 1998]

Early, Emmett. The war veteran in film Jefferson, N.C. : McFarland, 2003. (p. 78, 155, 169-70, 221-2)

Fuller, Graham. "Air Force one/Conspiracy theory/Men in black" Interview 27/7 (Jul 1997), p. 38.

Gilbey, Ryan. "Conspiracy theory" Independent [London] (Aug 30, 1997), p. 8.

Griffin, John. "It's all a plot: 'Conspiracy theory's' paranoid-cabbie caper is more a star vehicle for Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts than an examination of paranoia or millennial fears and dread" Gazette [Montreal] (Aug 8, 1997), p. D1.

Howell, Peter. "Mel movie compromised by Julia plot?" Toronto star (Aug 8, 1997), p. B3.

- Hunter, Stephen. "‘Conspiracy’: Just plotting along" Washington post (Aug 8, 1997), p. D1.
 _____ . "Conspiring minds: Why do so many paranoia flicks fail?" Washington post (Aug 10, 1997), Show, p. G1.
- James, Christine. "Conspiracy theory" Boxoffice 133 (Oct 1997), p. 43.
- Kelleher, Ed. "Conspiracy theory" Film journal 100 (Sep 1997), p. 39-40.
- Kempley, Rita. "‘Conspiracy’: Suspicious minds" Washington post (Aug 8, 1997), Weekend, p. N32.
- Klawans, Stuart. "New York stories" Nation 265/7 (Sep 8-15, 1997), p. 35-6.
- Lalli, Francesco. "Ipotesti di complotto" Film [Italy] 5/31 (1998), p. 56-58.
- Lane, Anthony. "Untrue blue" New Yorker 73/24 (Aug 18, 1997), p. 77-8.
- LaSalle, Mick. "A shaky ‘Theory’: Conspiracy thriller comes up short despite Gibson, Roberts and a promising premise" San Francisco chronicle (Aug 8, 1997), p. D1.
- Lawson, Terry. "Parannoying ‘Conspiracy theory,’ a movie about plots, could use one" Detroit free press (Aug 8, 1997), p. 1D.
- Loben, Carl. "Conspiracy theory" Melody maker 74/36 (Sep 6, 1997), p. 27.
- Lombardi, Lisa. "Conspiracy theory" YM 45/5 (Jun 1997), p. 113.
- Marechal, Magali. "Complots" Grand angle n. 207 (Aug/Sep 1997), p. 17-18.
- Mars-Jones, Adam. "Just because you’re paranoid..." Independent [London] (Aug 28, 1997), p. 6.
- Maslin, Janet. "Film review: Sure he’s paranoid, and with good reason" New York times (Aug 8, 1997), p. C1.
- Matthews, Jack. "Whatever it is, it’s very Mel-done" Newsday (Aug 8, 1997), pt. II, p. 3.
 [Reprinted in Film review annual 1998]
- McCarthy, Todd. "A clash of styles conspires against Donner’s ‘Theory’" Variety 367 (Aug 4-10, 1997), p. 34, 39.
- Medved, Michael. [Conspiracy theory] New York post (Aug 8, 1997), p. 45.
 [Reprinted in Film review annual 1998]
- Millar, Jeff. "A ‘Conspiracy’ of fun" Houston chronicle (Aug 8, 1997), Weekend, p. 1.
- Morgenstern, Joe. "Film: Paranoia runs deep" Wall Street journal (Aug 8, 1997), p. A11.
- Murray, Steve. "Review: ‘Conspiracy theory’" Atlanta journal-constitution (Aug 8, 1997), Preview, p. 12.
- Neman, Daniel. "‘Theory’ is challenging, interesting" Richmond times-dispatch (Aug 9, 1997), p. B7.
- Portman, Jamie. "Mel on a wire: In ‘Theory,’ Gibson makes wacko cabbie a likable man" Ottawa citizen (Aug 8, 1997), p. E1.
- Povse, Paul. "Gibson, Roberts fail to save ‘Conspiracy theory’" State journal-register [Springfield, IL] (Aug 14, 1997), p. 25.
- Rea, Stephen. "Paranoia is warranted in this smart thriller" Philadelphia inquirer (Aug 8, 1997), Weekend, p. 3.
- Robbins, Mark. "Paranoias letales" Dirigido por n. 262 (Nov 1997), p. 48-50.
- Rosen, Stephen. "Gibson a cabbie?: ‘Conspiracy’ suffers from stretch" Denver post (Aug 8, 1997), p. F1.
- Rozen, Leah. "Conspiracy theory" People weekly 48/7 (Aug 18, 1997), p. 21.
- Saada, Nicolas. "Complots" Cahiers du cinema n. 516 (Sep 1997), p. 77.
- Scheinfeld, Michael. "Conspiracy theory" Motion picture guide annual (edited by Jay Robert Nash and Stanley Ralph Ross) Chicago : Cinebooks, 1987-2000. (1998, p. 81-2)
- Schickel, Richard. "Full-service paranoia" Time 150/7 (Aug 18, 1997), p. 62.
 [Reprinted in Film review annual 1998]

- Seberechts, Karin. "Conspiracy theory" Film en Televisie + Video n. 474 (Sep 1997), p. 23.
- Seiler, Andy. "Conspiracy as 'Theory' has it, time right for Gibson thriller" USA today (Aug 6, 1997), p. 1D.
- Settuario, Adriana. "Ipotesti di complotto" Cinema sessanta 37/5-6 (1996), p. 92.
- Simmons, Sheila. "Help! The paranoids are after Mel Gibson in 'Conspiracy theory'" Plain dealer [Cleveland] (Aug 8, 1997), Friday, p. 4.
- Siskel, Gene. "'Conspiracy theory' convincing" Chicago tribune (Aug 8, 1997), Friday, p. A.
- Spines, Christine. "Conspiracy theory" Premiere 10/12 (Aug 1997), p. 25.
- Sterritt, David. "'Conspiracy theory' echoes classic thrillers" Christian Science monitor (Aug 11, 1997), p. 13.
- Stone, Jay. "Hitchcock concept almost works" Ottawa citizen (Aug 8, 1997), p. E3.
- Tassi, Fabrizio. "Ipotesti di complotto" Cineforum 37/369 (Nov 1997), p. 81-2.
- Taubin, Amy. "Odd men out" Village voice 42/33 (Aug 19, 1997), p. 81.
[Reprinted in Film review annual 1998]
- Travers, Peter. "Conspiracy theory" Rolling stone n. 767 (Aug 21, 1997), p. 115-16.
- Turan, Kenneth. "Movie review: 'Conspiracy theory'" Los Angeles times (Aug 8, 1997), Calendar, p. F1.
[Reprinted in Film review annual 1998]
- Wilmington, Michael. "Dream team 'Theory': Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts engagingly entertain in the chase thriller 'Conspiracy theory'" Chicago tribune (Aug 8, 1997), Friday, p. A.
- Wilson, Bob. [Conspiracy theory] Audience n. 197 (Oct/Nov 1997), p. 26.
- Wirt, John. "Implausible 'Conspiracy theory' succeeds on star power" Advocate [Baton Rouge, LA] (Aug 15, 1997), p. 24.
- Wrathall, John. "Conspiracy theory" Sight and sound 7/9 (Sep 1997), p. 39-40.
[Reprinted in Film review annual 1998]