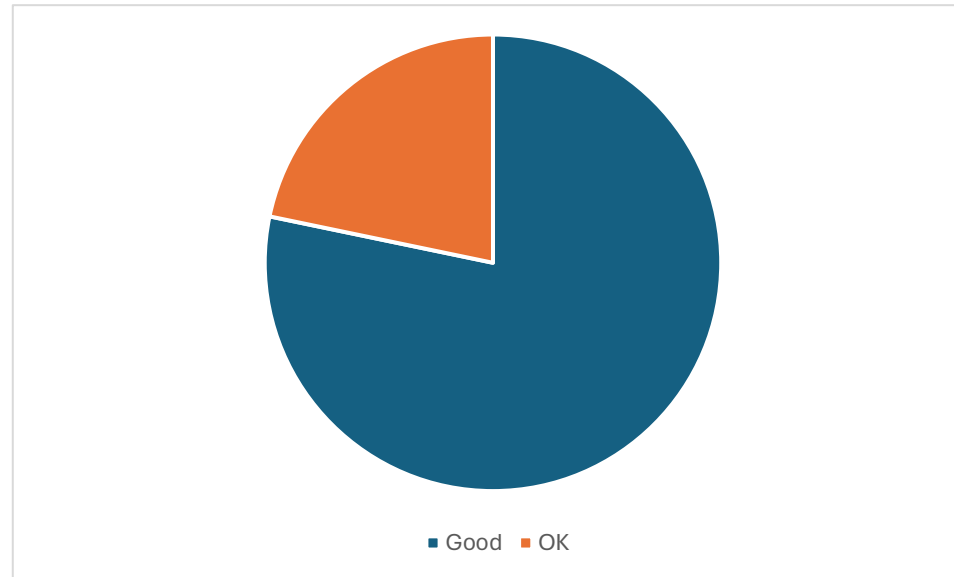


Review – Past Lives



Good – 18	OK – 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ah...what might have been...This wonderful film gave such a careful depiction of relationships and how they play out (along with a tribute to the differing architecture of New York and Seoul). A brilliantly understated performance from the three leads showing us all the complexities of past lives.• The film creates such endearing characters and insightful understanding of the past, present, future lives we all lead, although the contrasts are sharper for a twice immigrant protagonist. Very well chosen. No problems with subtitles for the Korean, just the occasional US English mumble. Some films in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was well acted, looked good and I liked the bittersweet ending, but given all the buzz around the film I thought there would be a bit more to it.• Again there was a culture issue. Koreans have a very different culture from ours. However, most of us can relate to reflection of past relationships, especially early crushes. "What if?" seems to be the relevant point here. What happened afterwards? It was

American English (not this one) need subtitles more than the other foreign ones.

- It was enjoyable with nicely filmed varied locations reflecting atmosphere that added to the story line which I found believable and poignant.
- Very good. A lovely story.
- A very enjoyable film. It made one think about how we change in growing up. Also the characters all made the right decisions despite the emotional pressures.
- It might be said, to use an old fashioned term, that it was 'slow'. However, it was poignant and moving and very well crafted, I thought. I thought that the two main actors playing Hae Sung and Nora were excellent. There was tension about their meeting up after so many years. The restraint shown by the two, particularly Hae Sung, was a strong feature of the film. He clearly was still in love with Na, now Nora, whilst she had Arthur to whom she remained loyal and, I think, devoted. She had 'moved on' whilst he hadn't, certainly not to the same extent. I thought, too, that the differences between east and west cultures came across. I would recommend the film as worth seeing.
- I really enjoyed the film. It was a gentle, contemplative exploration of relationships. The two main characters had very different views about their childhood friendship and what it meant to them. Nora seemed to be incredibly self assured and content with her life, whereas Hae Sung hankered after more, even as a youngster. I was so pleased that the temptation to make a tortured or overly romanticised ending was avoided.
- Engaging story and beautifully filmed.
- Liked the ending where she went up the steps with her husband, compared to when she was leaving Korea and went up the steps alone.

quite predictable too. Look forward to the next one.

- I found Nora a very unsympathetic character. Totally self-centred. Unaware of how Hae Seung felt. Showed no real love for Arthur. Just a means to green card. So, Ok but not one to see again.
- A gentle evening's entertainment. Intriguing introduction to some aspects of Korean society and its mores. Thank you for showing.

- All three characters were very well developed. The contrasts between the two cultures was well described. Interesting exploration of loss from childhood which was, at times, very moving.
- Some deep conversations about the nature of love and fate. But beyond the narrative, the performers were excellent in conveying emotions and feelings through glances and body language.
- I really enjoyed the film with 3 very interesting characters. Lots to think about. Nora very single-minded, forthright and driven. Hae Sung so thoughtful, and clearly devoted to Nora, but in the end able to let her go. He wasn't at all 'ordinary'. Nora's husband's sheer agony when he thinks the relationship is under threat. The unbearable tension of the parting at the end. Beautifully filmed. New York always on the move and noisy.