

## **Friends With Money**

In this new modest comedy/drama, director Nicole Holofcener's dissects the lives of four gal pals in La-La land. Her account is basically honest, occasionally insightful, often amusing, but finally too thin as she recounts the narrow lives of several self-centered and very comfortable friends, on whom the outside world seems to impinge but little (a common problem for the monied in Los Angeles).

The only one who is not comfortable in her life--and who seems therefore out-of-sync with her friends and in the film--is stumbling Olivia, played with dull quirkiness by a distracted Jennifer Aniston. The other actresses, fine and seasoned all, are Joan Cusack, Catherine Keener, and Francis McDormand, and all are fine as successful yet troubled wives, especially McDormand, a successful businesswoman who is going through a very rough patch in her life. More than the others, she seems to represent a fully rounded personality.

Though the men in these women's lives definitely play second fiddle, one of them, played by Simon McBurney, stands out as a touching, faithful husband whom no one can believe is NOT gay. Holofcener may be aiming, in a way, at a Los Angeles version of a Woody Allen "relationship" movie, but, instead of these lives jelling, they mainly just drift off...

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