

Warm Bodies Movie Review

Zombie Boyfriends, The New Trend

By Lauren Erath

Prepare for an epidemic. A new virus is spreading, thanks to the charming corpse, R (Nicholas Hoult). After rescuing Julie (Teresa Palmer) from his undead comrades, R takes her to his home, a zombie-infested airport. Hidden in his airplane-apartment, Julie (a blond Bella) is infected with romance by R's loving heart, bright blue eyes, and beyond-the-grave-pale skin. Meanwhile, R's love for Julie helps him regain his humanity. So what if he ate Julie's boyfriend?

I grant *Warm Bodies* half a Sword for Cinematic Quality. Although the movie's contrast of dark and light colors is effective, the animation for the reaper-like skeletons (Bonies) feels incomplete. Also, the soundtrack is limited to when characters play music on a radio or record player. This seems clever at first, but becomes annoying after the fourth time.

For Engagement, I also give the movie half a Sword. The film's idea is very original and creative, but the storyline shuffles slower than the zombies. This causes *Warm Bodies* to feel like it exceeds two hours when it is half an hour shorter. Even so, the feature was very humorous and sweet, which warrants half a Sword once combined with its unique outlook.

Because the acting is believable, but not impressive, the film earns half a Sword for Acting. Nicholas Hoult does a great job of being

an awkward zombie, but he doesn't express R's slow process of not seeing Julie as food. He falls for her immediately, which is somewhat plausible, but his instant diet change is unlikely. As for Julie, she barely grieves the loss of her former boyfriend. Also, her multiple flip-flops between solid courage and terror make her character inconsistent. Even so, she does a great job of representing hope and life amongst despair.

Warm Bodies receives half a Sword for Plot. Although it has an unparalleled perspective, the movie keeps to a typical and foreseeable plotline. Yet, it has an insightful message: people are not beyond saving. This unifies the screen play and gives viewers more to bring home than ideas for a new boyfriend.

For Overall Performance, once again, I award the film half a Sword. The movie's aspects combine well to create a touching yet humorous story with a meaningful message. However, it lacks style that sets it apart from other fantastical romances.

With 2 ½ Swords out of five, *Warm Bodies* is a contagious romance replacing vampire-boyfriends with zombies.


2.5/5

So You Want To Study Abroad?

CSP Student Spending Eight Months In Italy

By Amanda Och



First things first: if you are considering or even speculating studying abroad, than you need to go visit the Community Action, Leadership, and Learning (CALL) Center, which is located in Luther Hall 113. The CALL Center can explain all of your study abroad options. Concordia offers a wide range of options, from two-week long faculty-lead trips,

to service learning trips, to semesters in another country. The CALL Center is the best resource for more specific information and they are willing to help you develop a program that meets your needs.

I am currently living in Tradate, Italy - a small town outside of Milan - working as an au pair and taking classes online through Concordia. Therefore, my needs did not really fit into any of the programs offered, but the CALL Center was there to support me the entire time. Many students say they cannot afford to study abroad, but there are scholarships and loans available to students who would like to study abroad, so don't completely discount the idea until you look into it further! Even if you have no idea what you would like to do, where you would like to go, or if you even want to study abroad I suggest stopping in to see Kelly Matthias or Courtney Ball in the CALL Center.

The biggest piece of advice I can give you about studying abroad is to give yourself time to plan. I made the mistake of deciding I wanted to live in Italy for eight months only two months before I left. Therefore, I only had two months to make all of the arrangements, try to get a visa - this may require a trip to the nearest consulate, which may not be in Minnesota, re-register for classes, pack, and deal with finals and the holidays.

But why should you study abroad? The best part of studying abroad, in my opinion, is the fact that you can experience a completely different culture - language, food, and way of living. But aside from these obvious reasons for studying abroad, studying abroad has many long-term effects that many people don't consider. The greatest benefit of studying abroad is the affect that it has on you as an individual. By thrusting into this experience, one quickly learns to be very self-reliant and independent. A student in a foreign country also learns to appreciate not only the culture they are experiencing, but also their own in a new light. I have already found myself to be much more reflective about aspects of American culture that I never even thought about before (like how amazing it is to have a summer barbeque of hot dogs and hamburgers or having access to Pandora!). In addition, studying abroad includes increases in the value of one's education as well as increases one's candidacy while searching for jobs.

Even if you think you cannot study abroad because of your schedule, financial reasons, or other commitments, at least look into it. Trust me, I did not envision myself living in Italy back in October, but here I am today. I have only been in Italy since Jan. 1, but I can already tell you it has been one of the best experiences of my life, and I appreciate all the time I put into preparing for it.