

YOUNGER & YOUNGER

FILMMAKER'S SYNOPSIS

"Younger & Younger" is a film about marriage. Jonathan is just another peacock who forgot to look at his own beautiful wife, Penny, probably shortly after he married her. He is an immigrant from England and married Penny because her parents owned the storage facility in Glendale, California. Since Penny got no attention from him as a married woman, she started to be careless with herself. When we see her the first time, she is overgrown like a forgotten garden while her husband is enjoying every moment as a small town ladies' man.

The grotesque and vulgar scenes, portraying Jonathan's daily routine are, in my opinion, not even very exaggerated. This is how ridiculous elderly married men look when they are chasing other woman.

When Penny dies, Jonathan shows another stereotype of male behavior. It is the old idea of being freed from the chains of marriage by the wife's death.

When his son, Winston, returns from college, Jonathan falls victim to an illusion, that of his son replacing his mother in the office without any problem, so that Jonathan could seamlessly continue his spoiled, happy life. Winston, just out of college and far from being ready to run a business, sees his father as a fabulous businessman in a white suit while his mother is remembered as an assistant, a hand to his father's great leadership.

Now the romantic but also the revenge part comes in. Jonathan starts seeing Penny. Well, of course, it is his conscience that plays tricks on him. But he cannot get rid of it. He is unable to enjoy his life. He is haunted by his daydreams of Penny in the office, in the storage units, in the bedroom. In the beginning, he wants to cut these images out of his life, but as Penny gets younger and more and more beautiful, he wants to see her again and again, until he is unable to live one more day without her. Winston finally finds out that his mother was the one who ran the business. He falls in love with the beautiful daughter of a customer, and we hope that he will not follow in his father's footsteps.

At the end, Jonathan kills himself with his motorbike, feeling Penny on the seat behind him, turning back and kissing her.

The scene of Penny and Jonathan on the cloud is just another ironical remark about the sugary illusions we nurture about our afterlife.

This is a black romantic comedy. It questions the so-called reality. It takes our past as serious as our presence. It plays with film genres. There is slap stick, musical, romance, satire. It needs intelligent marketing to an intelligent audience.

Film director Ron Shelton (*Tin Cup*): "Nobody turns the banal into the exotic like the Adlons - love, death and public storage."