

While We're Young – Review

The generation **gap** between young and old has never been more pronounced. Or has it?

That's what director Noah Baumbach (*The Squid and the Whale* (2005), *Frances Ha* (2012), *Mistress America* (2015))

considers in his 2014 comedy, which features two **couples** - one in their mid-twenties, the **other** in their mid-forties - and takes a look at their impact on each other's lives. Ben Stiller and Naomi Watts play Josh and Cornelia Schrebnick, both reluctantly entering **early** middle-age, while Adam Driver and Amanda Seyfried

are Jamie and Darby Massey, two **bright** young things who live in a chic New York loft and **eschew** modern technology for VCR, vinyl and preferring not to use Google ("Let's just not know," says Jamie at one point, as Josh and Cornelia **fumble** for their smartphones).



The **friendship** the four strike up proves unpopular with the older couple's friends, who generally seem to be more preoccupied with babies and cookouts than **wholeheartedly** attending shamanistic 'cleansing' ceremonies, as Josh and Cornelia do in the film's **broadest, funniest** scene. (One particularly **deft** touch is the casting of Beastie Boy Adam Horovitz as Fletcher, permanently tired-eyed as a result of he and his wife's little one.)



The generational divide is mined for laughs throughout, and each actor involved gives a fine performance. Driver is **easy** charisma; Seyfried a **whir** of **charm** and **energy**; Watts entirely **believable**; and Stiller hasn't been this good in a while - perhaps not since *Greenberg*, his 2009 collaboration with Baumbach. It may not be as **sweet** as *Frances Ha*, nor as **madcap** as last year's *Mistress America*, but it

confidently **posits** Baumbach up there with frequent collaborator Wes Anderson as one of the best comedic directors working in the form.