

## **Final essay:**

The movie "Soul Kitchen" from Fatih Akin is about a man who owns a restaurant which he has many struggles with but in the end everything falls into place.

It is called soul kitchen because soul music is played frequently and the owner, Zinos, thinks that music can feed people better than the food can. Due to that, the restaurant is more than just a simple restaurant, it is a special place. According to Zinos, cooking is far more than just cooking, it is cooking with passion and love. When it all comes together satisfaction is created.

From the beginning of the story, we can say that the relationship between Zinos and his girlfriend will not last. Nadine acts cold towards Zinos from the beginning on. Therefore one can say that their relationship is going to fall apart. Zinos has lost contact with Nadine after she she has gone to China and he searches for a reason not to go to China. While Zinos has had a turning point where he has wanted to go to China, Nadine has given up on them. She did not respect Zinos decisions at all, that was the main reason for their almost break-up right before she left. In addition to that they have different characters and different plans for the future so they were fighting from the beginning on. It was obvious that they would not last.

At one point of the story Zinos got a professional cook called Shayn to join his restaurant. Throughout the story one can see more and more differences between the two cooks. Zinos is used to cook conventional junk food that all tastes the same but he loves what he is doing. Unlike Zinos Shayn wants people to taste the culinary diversity and he is bound to his traditions. Even though he is a professional cook he gets angry when people do not like his food. We can clearly see it because it is tested in Zinos' restaurant when the customers refused to eat Shayn's gourmet food as they were all used to eat the junk food. Although they have many differences they both love their job.

Due to the fact that the restaurant is located in Wilhelmsburg in Hamburg one can see many metropolitan aspects. One of these aspects is that a waiter of Zinos' lives in an old part of Hamburg in the Speicherstadt. In addition to that the industrial district as well as underground scene with all the nightclubs is displayed. They also use the public transportation and we see advanced industry. We can see cultural diversity but all in all we do not really have many information given to us in the movie.

An old man called Sokrates and lives in the storage room of the restaurant. The place he lives in is the first comical aspect because no one would really live in a storage room of a restaurant but he loves it. He always uses inappropriate vocabulary and even talks nonsense when no one expects to underline this he sometimes screams phrases that he does not expect. He cannot pay for his rent and for the food which he always eats at the restaurant. While he is in the restaurant he enjoys the companion of young women. Sokrates does not care about his future and is an alcoholic. He wears old marine things and all in all he looks really unkempt. He is called Sokrates which is the name of an old Greek philosopher but he has nothing in common with him because he is not that philosophical and has a vulgarly language. Philosophy is not his cup of tea.

During the movie the protagonist Zinos had a backache which basically reflect his worries. He got it while trying to lift an old dishwasher which he could not. The backache is a metaphor for his constant troubles with his work in the restaurant as well as the relationship problems with his (ex-)girlfriend Nadine. Also his money issues are a constant problem for him; his brother did not help at all. These are the main reasons all the actions after the incident happened, he also met his new girlfriend Anne. All in all one can say that you can overcome any obstacles that are put in your way no matter what.

As mentioned before Zinos has a brother called Ilias who finally got free time from jail with only one problem, he had to have a job to go out during the weekdays. Their relationship is really complicated because Ilias wants to get a lot from Zinos but does nothing to earn it. First of all he asks Zinos for money and plays poker while his brother is working. He also asks his brother to keep his secret. Even though Ilias lost the restaurant in a poker game Zinos takes all the fault for his brother so he would not get into any more problems. The relationship is for sure complicated but you can see that the brothers are holding together no matter what.

Neumann, a former school colleague from Zinos, came into the focus as he tries to talk Zino into selling his restaurant because the location is really attractive for Neumann. Neumann does not work hand in hand with the laws which leads to his downfall. He does not like his job that much and is only interested in money, fame and glory. Zinos as the counterpart loves his job and does anything not to lose his job. He is focused on life and lives for his job. So the final moral is that one will not be happy if you do not love your job and that the love to your job is the most important thing.

During the movie Zinos went through a learning progress where he learnt enjoying life and doing the thing that you love. He also practiced real cookery with fresh ingredients as well as cooking with love and passion. So, he got more skills and realized that he should never give up on trying harder because it is worth fighting for. In the end we can all see what he learnt because he cooks a fancy dinner for Anne, probably his new girlfriend.

The director Fatih Akin with Turkish roots has a different look on the German society. He created a movie which contains traditional symbols of many nations. The first one is the name of the restaurant: "Soul Kitchen", as well as the Greek music and the Turkish customers. He also went to a Turkish alternative doctor to have his backache cured. This aspect is also shown in the many ethnic groups that visit the restaurant.

To sum up one can say that the protagonist went through a huge development from bad to good and everything fell into its place.