



# Surviving Life (Theory and Practice)

Spring  
Season  
2012

**Release:** 2010  
**Cert (UK):** PG  
**Runtime:** 104 minutes  
**Director:** Jan Svankmajer's  
**Cast:** Klara Issova, Vaclav Helsus, Zuzana Kronerova

This film is different; suspend all your expectations.

Peter Bradshaw in the Guardian says of Jan Svankmajer's film "*it is an interesting and subversive comic fantasy reminiscent of the work of Terry Gilliam*".

He continues "*A married middle-aged man has an affair, in his dreams, with a beautiful young mistress; he causes a psychic crisis, and virtually a rip in the reality-dream time-space continuum, by getting this dream-mistress pregnant. He periodically visits an aghast psychoanalyst, on whose study walls are rather unfunny pictures of Freud and Jung, appearing to gasp or heckle or quarrel. But the film interestingly and subversively takes its stand on the idea that dreams are the real thing; waking life is an exotic, strange tissue of unreal diversions.*"



*Yellow Submarine* (directed by George Dunning) and Terry Gilliam's cartoons for *Monty Python's Flying Circus* (1969-74). It feels oddly dated, like a relic from 30 years ago.

**"Surviving Life (Theory and Practise)"** is weird without being alienating, educated without being haughty and heartfelt without being (too) sentimental, is a psychoanalytically guided tour through the dreams of a distressed individual. At times quite poignant and at times wickedly funny. Hats off to the painstaking animators and to a well-chosen cast who lent themselves to cut-to-paste performances.

Clearly this Sunday we should expect...*Something Completely Different*...

