

Analyze This

I can't believe I saw this piece of crap, and I can believe even less that it was number one in the box office. Thank God I didn't have to pay for it, but in a way, I kind of did, since I had to sit through it. The worst part of it was that I knew the film was going to suck, yet I had no way of stopping it, since I needed a negative review.

Here's the plot in case you haven't seen it a billion times already, Paul Vitti (DeNiro) is a gangster who has a near miss with a bullet. Ben Solem (Crystal) is an aggravated psychiatrist who is about to get married to a TV reporter (Kudrow) and tail ends a gangster car. So now he's got to pull Vitti's fragile psyche back together before the big gangster meeting, and "wacky antics" ensue. Sigh. For the record, most wacky antics suck.

The film is an atrocious waste of time. It was a one joke movie that misfired big time. For those losers who can't figure it out, the joke is that DeNiro is a tough gangster who can't stop getting emotional and crying. That's it. That's the whole of every joke. Granted, Arnold Schwarzenegger's "Junior" was a one joke movie also, as well as "Liar Liar" with Jim Carrey, but the story of those films and the comedic talent of the actors was more than enough to take care of the rest. "Junior" worked not because it was about a man who gets pregnant, it works because it was Arnold who gets pregnant. And "Liar Liar" worked because Jim Carrey is a total spaz. But DeNiro spoils his part by trying too hard to be funny. When he stops with his fake crying and takes his role seriously, he is able to generate a few laughs, but otherwise it sucks.

But I don't blame DeNiro entirely. The film would've sucked just as much without him, because the script was just plain bad. It was like they came up with the concept of the film, wrote a rough draft of the script, and the process ended there. They said, "Hey, this piece of shit is good enough, DeNiro and Crystal can carry the rest." No, they couldn't. But in the meantime, the scriptwriters wasted some perfectly good comedy material, stuff that actually could've been funny.

Crystal keeps trying to marry Kudrow, but the ceremony keeps getting interrupted by Crystal getting kidnapped, or bodies falling out of a high rise onto their food table, and Kudrow and her family are pissed, but never go beyond just saying that they are. Also, DeNiro, in gratitude, keeps buying Crystal lavish gifts, but we never see more than one. Plus, Kudrow and Crystal's son have to pretend to bond, and Crystal has unresolved issue with his father, who is also a psychiatrist, only successful. And let's not forget the a FBI involvement, who think that Crystal might actually be a new mobster on the scene. So you see, there was a buttload of material to work with, but they drop it all for the one continuous joke, as if that was enough. That's why the film sucks, and why you shouldn't see it, but also why they should remake it, but only remake it better, instead of remaking an already good movie, like "Psycho". So analyze that, fuckers!

On the Mark-O-Meter, "Analyze This" receives the Mad Mark. The very, very Mad Mark.