

Meatballs

By The Movie Dunce

I recently had the chance to rewatch “Meatballs” on DVD, and to be quite honest, I was overwhelmed by a sense of childhood nostalgia, because it was very much like watching old home movies of yourself at summer camp (or in my case sitting alone in a tree with my Star Wars action figures in hand wishing hopelessly that I could have a friend). And let’s face it, the quality of the film makes it look like it was shot on one of those old Super 8 cameras.

Be that as it may, you truly have a great cast of characters at work here. You have misfits, nerds, geeks (some of the finest of my species, most notably “Spaz” and the fat guy), as they and the rest of camp Northstar are led on to victory in the annual summer games against the evil camp Mohawk, who consist of jack-off’s, jerks and pricks; nothing but rich pretty-boys that they used as the base model for James Spader in “Pretty in Pink” or for William Zabka in..well, anything!

Camp Northstar is led by none other than Bill Murray as the whacked out, but loveable camp counselor, and the shy, but probably gay child that he befriends, played by Chris Makepeace (am I the only guy that still knows who he is?), plus an assorted cast of future junkies, fluffers and crackwhores. You’ll probably also be humming the various camp songs that they sing for weeks on end (which includes the strangely seductive title song by Rick Dees), while at the same time driving everyone else you work with crazy, which is always a plus.

This is a film that in spite of it’s age, and the fact that it looks like it was a home movie made in the forties, still receives high praise from me, even after all these years. It’s hard to go wrong with a whacked out Bill Murray and easily malleable children. “Meatballs” gets the Happy Mark.