

## Cyrus

A Review by Tom Sims

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Kids these days use the word “awkward” as sort of a call out for whenever they find a situation uncomfortable. Kind of like they use the word “wicked” as a call out when something was cool. Well, we all know life can have its awkward moments. There are times when you just want to throw your hands up in the air and say, “How weird can this get?”

But should you worry about how awkward a movie can be?

Cyrus tells the story of a couple (John and Molly) who immediately hit it off at a party—and after the party! John (played by John C. Reilly) is a social misfit who takes his dating cues from his ex-wife (played by Catherine Keener) who still visits his house way too much (um... all awkward?). Well, in her own way Molly (played by Marisa Tomei) is also awkward. Why? Because of her son, Cyrus (played by Jonah Hill) who is... well, you guess.

Hill plays Cyrus masterfully. The character is a 22 year old who not only still lives with his mother but is way too attached. Like, “go get yourself on Dr. Phil” attached. So when this new love interest enters the picture, you can predict how the son is going to react.

The problem is that all this strange behavior, odd reactions—all these issues—are not nearly entertaining enough. I get what relatively new filmmakers and brothers, Jay and Mark Duplass, are trying to do. They want you to feel so uncomfortable that any relief is comic relief. And the relief comes, no doubt, in a funny sparring match between son and boyfriend you just knew was coming. But it’s not enough.

Keener’s character is getting remarried and invites her ex-husband Reilly’s character and Molly to the wedding. Really? Cyrus invites himself via his enabling mother. Yikes! And whatever you imagine can happen at the event... happens. And it’s uncomfortable all right—but not because it’s based in reality.

Marisa Tomei is wonderful in this film, and I’m not just saying that because she is one of the prettiest actresses working today. Well, maybe that’s part of it. But she does play the part of a mother with her own set of issues very well. Really all of these actors turn in outstanding performances. It’s just not enough to make it any less painful to watch.

So if you really want to squirm in your seat and marvel at just how screwed up people are, Cyrus is your movie.

Note: Still some openings for our Music Video camp next week! Videos will screen Friday, July 23!