

Everybody's Fine... sort of...

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A Review by
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Mr. Henry Reviews "Everybody's Fine"

With the holiday season now in full swing, this time of year can prove to be a little stressful for people. Between the party planning and figuring out what gifts to buy, in addition to normal day-to-day activities, it can be a tense time of year. And the thing that makes it most tense of all, worse than the crowds at the mall or writing all of those holiday cards, is the one unavoidable element – family.

Luckily for us, there is a little thing called the movies, which enjoy reminding of us that "family" is truly a shared experience. For better or worse, family is there to help us through the tough times, whether they be a road trip to a beauty pageant (Little Miss Sunshine), to balancing a life of crime (The Godfather saga) and even to taking road trips (The Griswolds in the National Lampoon series), Hollywood likes to remind us that it's not just your family that is dysfunctional. It's everybody's.

Everybody's Fine, a remake of an Italian film with the same title, follows Frank, a widower who sets off on a road trip to reconnect with his grown children. Played by Robert De Niro, Frank discovers that for the past few years his children have been keeping him in the dark about their issues. He now is on a mission to get his family together for the holidays, no matter how difficult it seems.

There are times the film is overly sentimental, but the performances keep it from getting completely sappy. Drew Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale and Sam Rockwell play three of the children and their performances, along with De Niro, are worthwhile. It would have been nice if there was a bit more humor at times, but the relationships are true and do lead to a natural (though fairly obvious) conclusion.

So this year, even if the dinner table seems a little tense, just take a deep breathe and remember – you are in good company.

Mr. Sims' Sneak Peek at "Nine"

If you loved Chicago (Oscar winner, Best Picture, 2003), you may really like "Nine." Daniel Day-Lewis acting is always superb (not so sure if he's a song and dance man though). Sophia Loren is stunning as she beautifully plays Day-Lewis' mother. Don't be alarmed at some oddly placed starlets (Nicole Kidman) and some uninspiring songs. And be prepared for a show-stopping performance by Fergie (yes, you heard right). I wish I could say time flew by, but it was doing a little crawl by the end. Still, if you're a fan of colorful costumes, elaborate sets, and fun performances, go see this one on the big screen. Watch for a full review in our next edition.