

The Break-Up: Not a good date movie

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Although *The Break-up* is laced with wit and charm throughout, the theme and ultimate outcome make it not the best flick to take a date - unless you're into the whole "that won't happen to US" thing.

Vince Vaughn is definitely the shining star in this comedy film. His boyish charm and quick wit come through the screen and make one forget he's trying to follow a script. Vince Vaughn is another one of Hollywood's under-recognized greats. He's can play anything from deranged serial killer to mean selfish anti-hero to romantic lead. He can look sweet and sexy in one film and downright scary in the next. I would like to see more of him.

His portrayal of Gary Grobowski hits the nail on the head. We've all known personalities like this one: the guy too much afraid to show his feelings until it's too late, the guy who would rather protect his heart and reputation than to put anything on the line. But Vaughn is so charming in his execution that you find yourself drawn-in despite it all.

Jennifer Aniston is another great talent in this film. She too can play a varied lineup of characters. Perhaps not quite as versatile as her leading man, she shines in this film as the ever-sacrificing love interest - which she can play with perfection. Her resume is full of those. She too possesses this amazing quick wit needed for a modern romantic comedy. ...And she's just so darn cute.

Vincent D'Onofrio also stars, but his character is a bit under-developed. Undeterred, Vincent does the best he can with what screentime he has. He's a fairly decent actor himself, but remained on the "B" list due to his unusual appearance. You might remember him from *Full Metal Jacket*, *Mr. Wonderful*, or *Mystic Pizza*.

Peyton Reed does a good job of directing this little flick - considering it wouldn't take Spielberg to pull this one off. I could have directed this script. It was just your basic character interaction film - none of that pesky action, special effects, or foreign intrigue to get in the way. His credits include other light fun films such as *Down With Love* and *Bring It On*.

And that is what *The Break-up* is - just a light fun diversion from the everyday life in which we tend to find ourselves. It won't be nominated for an Oscar and it won't be remembered beyond the summer unless seen on Blockbuster's shelves in passing, but it's a nice film to see if you've already seen *Cars* and *The Da Vinci Code*.

Speaking of *The Da Vinci Code*, I found that film to another great for the season. Tom Hanks stars - and that's really the nutshell right there. But it offers wonderful suspense, mystery, and action with a hint of romantic intrigue. It was a good one and really a must-see even if the ending was a bit predictable.

Another flick I saw a while back and didn't comment on was *An American Haunting*. Even with veterans Donald Sutherland and Sissy Spacek, it ended up being a bit of a disappointment. It had great potential, but the script fell back on Hollywood cliches making it become just another ghost movie. It didn't offer too many chills or thrills. Not necessarily a thumbs-down on this one, but not a full-hearted thumbs-up either.

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