
Gena's Media Reviews

A Weekly Guide



These "Out-Of-Towners" Should Go Home!

A complete waste of talent. There's just no other way to describe "The Out-Of-Towners," which hit theaters this weekend.

Take three highly talented stars (Steve Martin, Goldie Hawn, John Cleese), a great writer (Neil Simon), a plot that succeeded before, and the thinking is "can't miss," right? Wrong. "The Out-Of-Towners" misses--badly.

Nancy and Henry Clark (Hawn and Martin) are suffering through the "empty nest" syndrome. Their kids have flown the coop and now all they have is each other. (And believe me, if you were married to either one of them, you'd be depressed, too.)

Henry's lost his job and hasn't told his wife. They fly to New York when Henry is invited to interview with an ad agency. But, of course, faithful movie-goers, you know the real reason behind this set-up: It's there so hubby and wife can rediscover their love for one another and have crazy adventures with those wacky, zany, nutty New Yorkers. (By the way, we're not all like that, I assure you.)

So then comes a barrage of completely unbelievable twists and turns: They lose their luggage, get mugged, Henry gets thrown in jail, etc. It just feels like a bad sitcom gone out of control.

Ultimately, "The Out-Of-Towners" only saving grace is John Cleese, who plays a snippy hotel manager. He's hilarious, particularly when dressed in women's attire and dancing to Donna Summer's "Bad Girls." I wouldn't mind an entire film devoted to his character. It would certainly be better than this.

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