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ENTERTAINMENT

Misfit pulls off 'What About Bob?'

What About Bob is currently playing at Movies 12 and Movieland

don't bother . . wall to rent.
worth the time a must see.

ADMIT

Fans of the lovable-mental-misfitwho-follows-his-psychiatrist-on-vacation genre should not miss What About Bob? Bill Murray and Richard Drey-

fuss star as the patient and doctor respectively. At least that's how it starts

Murray plays Bob Wiley, a multi-phobic obsessive-compulsive who has been treated by almost every psychiatrist in the phone book but still has enormous, comical problems. Bob's psychiatrist passes him off to Dr. Leo Marvin, a highly respected doctor and best selling author, right before Dr. Marvin leaves for a month long vacation in New Hampshire with his family.

What Bob really needs is some love, and he thinks he can find it in Dr. Marvin, so he follows him to the lake for some counseling. When he tracks him down and invades Leo's home, the family loves him. Dr. Marvin, who is so wrapped up in himself and not all that great of a family man, is indignant.

The movie really works well, showing the transformation of Bob into a functional part of a family and the change of Dr. Marvin into a psychological basket case.

Dreyfuss and Murray are great together. Their combined energy



The pathetically helpless and comical Bob Wiley, played by Bill Murray (left), torments Dr. Leo Marvin (Richard Dreyfuss), a stressed-out shrink whose vacation is ruined by the relentless Bob.

and chemistry give an extra boost to the oftentimes repetitive jokes.

When Bob first arrives, Dr. Marvin writes him a prescription to take a vacation from his problems. So Bob decides to follow his advice and, much to Dr. Marvin's dismay, takes his vacation in the same town as Dr. Marvin and his family.

Perhaps the film would have been of more consequence if it were played as a black comedy with Bob being a more dangerous person and had a bit sharper edge to him. But for what it wants to do. it almost always succeeds. It's simply a sweet, light comedy that is consistentby funny.

The volatility between Dreyfuss and Murray makes the movie. Leo's family is fairly nondescript. Julie Hagerty fades into the background as the supportive wife, as does the daughter. The only standout among the supporting cast is Charlie Korsmo, who has already shown in films like *Dick Tracy* that he has real star talent.

Director Frank Oz has shown a flair for light comedy with a bit of a skewed twist and has shown it in films like Little Shop of Horrors and Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. He gets good performances out of the stars, and the Virginia locations are beautiful.

What About Bob? is an energetic and robust comedy which is amusing and at times, achingly funny. It is a great film to help spring fever along.

By Lucas J. Gutman Emerald Contributor



