

Cyrus First-Run

Friday, July 16 - Thursday, August 5, 2010



Film Information

Directed by

Jay & Mark Duplass

Language

English

Running Time

91 minutes

Interview with Jay and Mark Duplass

Mark: We started these conversations about making a movie that was relationship based with really good actors so we could maintain that sense of intimacy on set and try to maintain what we do best, which is focus on the funny and the tragically comedic elements of relationships.

Jay: From our perspective, [the visual style on display in CYRUS] is just how we make movies. We originally saw it as a lack of aesthetic, but I guess that's not what everyone else is saying. They're like, wow it's very vérité. It's real.

Mark: Jay and I have functioned a lot like a documentary crew where he holds the camera and I'll hold boom, and we're just a two-person crew. And our actors just roam about the space, no blocking marks. There's a script, but they're improvising as they go, and we're sort of capturing it as it happens.

Jay: Mark and I actually give actors very specific objectives. For instance, 'You are very angry with this person and your job is to get out of this room,' and you secretly tell the other person, 'Whatever

you do, do not let this person out of the room.'

Mark: We find that a lot of films sets spend 90% of their time on lighting and technical issues and then they only have 10% left for acting and story, and we try to reverse that number, so we can really be there with the actors and get that story and acting where we want it.

Jay: How we get there and the language and the specifics and the subtleties of how [the actors] get there changes on every take, and we actually look for that and encourage that, and that's what we think is kind of special about what we're doing.

Source: Fox Searchlight



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More Information

Screenplay by

Mark Duplass
Jay Duplass

Featuring

John C. Reilly
Jonah Hill
Marisa Tomei
Catherine Keener
Matt Walsh
Diane Mizota
Kathy Wittes
Katie Aselton

Cinematography by

Jas Shelton

Film Editing by

Jay Deuby

Original Music by

Michael Andrews

Production Design by

Francesca Balestra Di Mottola

Country of Origin

USA

Distributor

Fox Searchlight

“It is too soon to say that these guys constitute one of the best and most hopeful strains in American cinema today. But it is not too soon to introduce the idea by saying it’s too soon to say it. Already the Duplass name on a motion picture is reason for anticipated pleasure and careful scrutiny. They’re telling new kinds of stories about new kinds of people. Under cover of a seemingly fumbling and stumbling style, they’re offering tight narratives and incisive character portraits....The Duplasses are showing how modern Americans think, talk and live. Like Woody Allen, their world is fairly specific, in this case white, educated, artistically-minded, culturally plugged in, but struggling. Not poor, but fairly broke. But instead of just offering slices of life, which might be interesting enough, they are devising real stories and placing vivid characters in collision.”

—Mick La Salle, **San Francisco Chronicle**

Also Recommended

- The Puffy Chair 2005 (Dir. Jay & Mark Duplass)
- Mutual Appreciation 2005 (Dir. Andrew Bujalski)
- Baghead 2008 (Dir. Jay & Mark Duplass)
- Medicine for Melancholy 2008 (Dir. Barry Jenkins)
- Beeswax 2009 (Dir. Andrew Bujalski)
- Humpday 2009 (Dir. Lynn Shelton)
- Daddy Longlegs 2009 (Dir. Ben Safdie & Joshua Safdie)
- Funny Ha Ha 2009 (Dir. Andrew Bujalski)