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Just Write

USA 1997

produced by

Heath McLaughlin, Jim Kreutzer (executive) for Wild Chill Productions

directed by Andrew Gallerani

starring Sherilynn Fenn, Jeremy Piven, JoBeth Williams, Wallace Shawn, Alex Rocco, Jeffrey D.Sams, Co: Mandylor, Yeadley Smith, Holland Taylor, Anita Barone, Bellina Logan, Stephanie Miller, Nancy McKeon, McMahon, Anthony Galea, Callista Gallerani, Gian-Mical Gallerani, Todd Susman, Joyce Katz, Dorian Gregory, Lara Bierner, Joseph Arsenault, Robert Nelson, John Fleck, Michael Pointer, John Haxby, Brian Mimi Craven, Lou Cutell, Marcy Goldman, Rose Shumow, Bill Pugin, Jack Manning, Barbara Perry, Josl Keaton, Mary-Pat Green, Heath McLaughlin, Jay Leno
 written by Stan Williamson, music by Leland Bond

review by **Mike Haberfelner**

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Harold (Jeremy Piven) is a Hollywood tourbus driver, and he loves his job because he loves movies. and he loves up-and-coming actress Amanda Clark (Sherilyn Fenn) - from a distance of course, because she's an actress and he's a mere tourbus driver. Then though, by mere chance, he meets her in person, and for some reason claims to be a scriptwriter - and it happens she's unhappy with the script of her upcoming movie and asks him to rewrite it. The two soon start to go out on a couple of rather innocent dates, too, and the closer they get, the more problematic it gets for Harold, because now it gets harder and harder to tell her he's not a scriptwriter

a tourbus driver. Meanwhile, Amanda's unscrupulous agent Sid (JoBeth Williams) has figured out there's something not quite right with the alleged scriptwriter her client is going out with, and she makes sure Amar finds Harold in a compromising situation. And then there's Harold's dad (Alex Rosso), who does his part in messing up things ...

It all ends happily though when Harold finally owns up to being a tourbus driver and still manage to deliver a smashing rewrite of Amanda's script. Of course he gets the girl in the end.

Just Write is a film that has its moments - there is some biting Hollywood satire in here, and some scenes are almost reminiscent of Woody Allen's better films.

However, on the whole, the film is just pointless, mainly because it's way too harmless on one hand, and too predictable on the other. And despite some satirical interludes, the film never goes beneath Hollywood's shi surfaces. Oh, and Sherilyn Fenn's character remains disappointingly one-dimensional throughout - rather ironically, because in the beginning of the film she asks Jeremy Piven's character to rewrite her script because she thinks her character in there is too one-dimensional.

That all said, as a run-of-the-mill romantic comedy, **Just Write** isn't too bad, either, it's less tear-jerking and sugar-coated than most films of its ilk, treats its subject unexcited and subtle where other films go painfully over-the-top, and it features a decent and likeable cast. Still no masterpiece, but at least watchable.

review © by **Mike Haberfelner**

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