Directed by Tom Shadyac

Written by Steve Oedekerk

Based on the book Gesundheit: Good Health Is a Laughing Matter by Hunter Doherty Adams with Maureen Mylander

Running time 110 minutes

Rated PG

Robin Williams presents another dazzling performance in this Heart touching comedy. Funny-man Williams leads a talented cast as the compassionate and entertaining Patch Adams. Naturally it's a role he was born to play.

As the movie opens we find a suicidal Patch has checked himself into a mental hospital. Here Patch witnesses the compromising treatment of patients and discovers all he really wants to do is truly help people by becoming a doctor; using laughter as his medicine. Patch then enrols in Medical school. Meeting some interesting characters along the way; including the beautiful Curin (Monica Potter) who becomes a possible love interest, Patch is determined not to get thrown out of the college for is apparently 'unsuitable' behaviour.

Williams' role as Patch is much like that of his title role in Jack and the movie is much in the same genre of comedy/drama. Patch Adams is set in 1970s America. It cleverly masters a range of themes from love to death. With a huge affluence of significant dialogue don’t be prepared for anything less than intelligent 'deep and meaningful' insights.

The score involves some severely sombre music at certain points throughout the movie and there aren’t any spectacular stunts or special effects. It isn’t a movie for someone in quest of action or a happy ending whereby everything is resolved...but if you love a meaningful tale with a contrasting light hearted perspective on life, then Patch Adams is for you.
Grade Commentary

Ariel has produced an effective movie review with user comment section, demonstrating a thorough understanding of both the review text type and the film. The review is well-structured and informative, but needs to provide more analysis of film techniques. Although the level of language is appropriate, and at times is quite sophisticated in language choice, better editing is needed.

Ariel’s response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at grade B standard at the end of Stage 5.

User Comment

Patch Adams is Incredible! Robin William stuns us with another impressive performance as the title role and the plot sparkles with just the right mix of humour and serious drama that brings a heart toughing result. The main idea of the plot is after committing himself to a mental hospital, suicidal Patch realise he wants to become a doctor and help people after experiencing the poor treatment of some of the patients.

I enjoyed Patch Adams so much because of the clever and humorous way they film deals with illness and death. The film expresses some important themes, and communicates a lesson that every doctor should learn—laughter is a medicine! I recommend this movie to all ages. Patch has something for everyone!

Usefulness & Appeal of 'User Comments'

The user comments that I have read on the Internet Movie Data Base were very opinionated. However they do seem to offer the average persons simple views on the movies rather than the fine nit-picking of some formal reviews. My user comment on Patch Adams is obviously very positively for the movie. Though, just because I enjoyed it and wrote an enthusiastic comment it doesn't mean that it wasn't an incredibly awful movie.

Another point about user comments is their writers usually focus on expressing their opinions on just one or a few aspects of the movie. For example talking about just the story line, or just accentuating how great a particular actor is. They do not give us a broad understanding of the movie as a whole, including the editing, acting and other details like directing.

Most user comments are not particularly concise; some resemble long winded speeches, usually by wannabe directors. The English is often jumbled, in no particular order, with no paragraphs and not much direction. With exceptions the authors don't usually consider what audience they are writing to, expressing themselves in the first words that crawl out of their head.

I don't consider the user comments to be very useful to the serious movie goer. Anyone has access to the website and could easily write a completely uneducated remark on a film they may have not even bothered watched. It is hard to take some of the comments seriously when their writers' views are so obviously biased. It is interesting to know some peoples opinions but, that's all they are: opinions.