

HEADLINE: ** Faith-Filled Slice of Life **

TITLE: JESUS, MARY AND JOEY

Quality: * * * Acceptability: -1

SUBTITLES: None

WARNING CODES:

Language: L

Violence: V

Sex: S

Nudity: N

RATING: Not Rated Yet

RELEASE: TBD, 2007

TIME: 105 minutes

STARRING: Vincent Pagano, Marley Shelton, Jennifer Esposito, Olympia Dukakis, and Jason Gedrick

DIRECTOR: James Quattrochi

PRODUCERS: Patrick Coppola, Kristian Pagano, Vincent Pagano, and James Quattrochi

WRITER: Vincent Pagano

DISTRIBUTOR: Panorama Entertainment

CONTENT: (CCC, BBB, Ab, O, Ho, L, V, S, N, A, D, M,) Very strong Christian worldview with many positive references to Christ, God, biblical morality, etc., with a number of elements of Catholicism as young man tries to find a personal relationship with Jesus rather than following ritual and religion, plus one negative view of a strong Christian father who is bigoted (although he changes his ways and recognizes his bigotry), some anti-biblical content depicted as people deal with their sinful natures (the anti-biblical content is looked upon as bad, though, and clearly the folly of the characters), a woman visits a psychic although she is told that "psychics work for the Devil" and the psychic is obviously a fraud with the sequence handled in a comedic way, and one light homosexual reference made in a comedic way; seven very light obscenities, five light profanities (such as "Dear God," "Oh my God," etc.) and a few substitution slang such as "frikkin," etc.; very light comic violence includes local landlord is tied up in meat freezer because he is closing on a family store (the young man who ties him up is rebuked for his actions); some sexual content includes young man brags about sleeping with a young woman, several characters make references to genitalia, unmarried kissing in a few scenes, a young woman admits to having pre-marital sex, two men are at a bar where women in bikinis are wrestling in whip cream, man throws away some dirty magazines after his conversion, and a young man hides a Bible in a Victoria's Secret lingerie catalog so that people at work will not see what he is reading; nudity includes naturalistic nudity of man in wet shirt as he is baptized, several women's midriffs are exposed, tight tops (although nothing gratuitous), and several shots of women in bikinis; some alcohol consumption depicted (from wine to beer to hard liquor) in several scenes,

although no drunkenness is shown; several characters smoke cigarettes but no drugs; and, miscellaneous immorality includes some gambling on a pool game and light vandalism.

GENRE: Romantic Comedy

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Older teenagers and adults

REVIEWER: Dallas Amsden

REVIEW: JESUS, MARY AND JOEY is the delightfully comedic story of Joey (Vincent Pagano), who struggles to find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ while he balances all the other relationships in his life – namely, the lovely Mary (Marley Shelton) and his overbearing Italian-American, Catholic family.

In his late twenties and still living at home, Joey Vitello aimlessly lives his life with nothing more on his agenda than his weekly rendezvous with his bowling team and his weekly trip to Catholic Mass. Not until he becomes reacquainted with Mary O'Callahan, a classmate from his childhood, and not until he learns of her miraculous recovery from advanced cancer, does Joey begin to realize that Jesus is more than just the centerpiece of his Catholic religion. With Mary by his side and his colorful family on his case, Joey begins to search out the true meaning of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

JESUS, MARY AND JOEY is an enjoyable slice-of-life movie that has some wonderfully colorful characters and is filled with faith and Christian values. Shot on a small budget, this movie proves that good stories can be told without all the spectacle of most big-budget Hollywood fare. It has a well-rounded story with full character arcs. The plot is rather predictable in its outcome, but audience members will so enjoy the characters, that viewers will “take the journey” with the director.

The director also does a nice job. Simple, honest, direct storytelling is his goal, and he accomplishes just that. The actors bring life and vitality to the movie.

People of faith will also enjoy the fact that, once Joey accepts Jesus into his life, things do not simply get easier for him. The movie does not promote an incorrect and one-dimensional view that Christ immediately wipes away our problems and life becomes simple. Rather, Joey, like all followers of Christ, must learn that life is not easy and Jesus is our anchor that holds. Joey's journey of ever-growing faith is a story that all will ring true with every audience member.

Some objectionable content, such as sexual dialogue and scantily clad women, is depicted. These depictions (although not glorified and handled mainly in a comedic fashion) do, however, warrant a cautionary rating from MOVIEGUIDE® for younger audiences. Older teens and adults, though, will enjoy the characters and the story in JESUS, MARY AND JOEY, and people of faith will enjoy the strong Christian worldview and positive moral tone.

Please address your comments to:

TBD

SUMMARY: JESUS, MARY AND JOEY is the delightfully comic story of Joey, who struggles to find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ while he balances all the other relationships in his life, including his relationship with a girl named Mary and his overbearing Italian-American, Catholic family. JESUS, MARY AND JOEY is an enjoyable slice-of-life movie that has some wonderfully colorful characters and is filled with faith and Christian values, but some sexual references and light foul language require caution.

IN BRIEF:

JESUS, MARY AND JOEY is the delightfully comic story of Joey, who struggles to find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ while he balances all the other relationships in his life – namely, the lovely Mary and his overbearing Italian-American, Catholic family. In his late twenties and still living at home, Joey Vitello aimlessly lives his life with nothing more on his agenda than his weekly rendezvous with his bowling team and his weekly trip to Catholic Mass. Not until he becomes reacquainted with Mary O’Callahan, a childhood classmate does Joey begin to realize that Jesus is more than just the centerpiece of his Catholic religion.

JESUS, MARY AND JOEY is an enjoyable slice-of-life movie that has some wonderfully colorful characters and is filled with faith and Christian values. Shot on a small budget, this movie proves that good stories can be told without all the spectacle of most big-budget Hollywood fare. It has a well-rounded story with full character arcs. The plot is rather predictable in its outcome, but viewers will so enjoy the characters that they will “take the journey” with the director. Some sexual references and light foul language warrant caution, however.