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# Movie Roulette: Being John Malkovich – Review

BY FABIENNE PAYET · JANUARY 8, 2017



Constant Fatigue Is A Warning Sign - Here's The Simple Fix



Divorce rumors are flying about the Clintons because Bill found about this huge secret?

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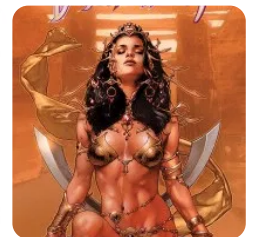
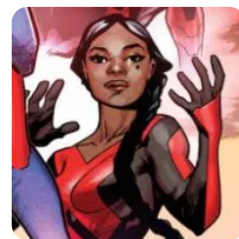


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Starring: John Cusack, Cameron Diaz, Catherine Keener, John Malkovich  
Directed by: Spike Jonze  
Released in 1999 by Gramercy Pictures

Craig Schwartz is a puppeteer by trade who is down on his luck. He always gets vastly outperformed by others, but he loves the aspect of storytelling and being someone else. His wife Lotte is a pet store clerk who often brings her work (as in the animals themselves) home. He is forced to take on a job as a filing clerk for the weird company Lester Corp, a company whose offices are about 5 feet high and are located on the 7 ½ floor of a Manhattan office building. One day when dropping a file behind a cabinet Craig discovers a small door. What is even more amazing is

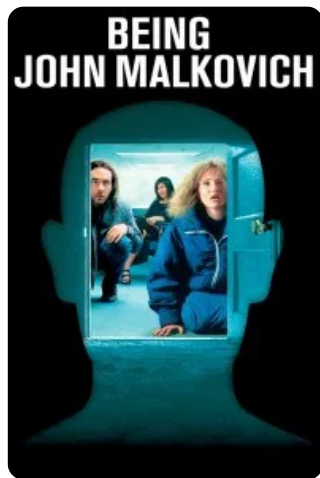


that this portal leads you directly into the mind of John Malkovich. But when Craig's actions lead to having the portal turn into a money making opportunity, things go downhill fast.

This is by far one of the most mind tripping movies I have ever seen (ok together with *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, if I am honest). It is hard to explain how one feels towards it or how one will respond to it as everyone will undoubtedly view it in a different manner. Even I cannot put my finger on it. But it is essential viewing that much I can say. And when you have a director like Spike Jonze at the helm you know you are in for a treat.

Of course I cannot and will not spoil this movie but I will highlight a few key scenes that I find interesting. First scene worth of mention, is the small cameo by Octavia Spencer as the woman in the elevator, this movie was still early on in her career and it is amazing to see how far she has come since. It was lovely to see her in this tiny little role but she took it on just as great as her bigger roles! Then

there is a simple sequence of John doing a puppeteer scene with an incredible puppet created to this likeness. That is visually gorgeous to see, it is hard to believe someone can bring so much life into a simple wooden character. Talk about Pinocchio being



taken to the next level. Also LesterCorp itself comes to mind, how the set has been created to be this small and bizarre but to somehow make sense. The reason why it was created that way is explained in the orientation movie shown to new employees of LesterCorp and oddly enough it makes sense. As Dr. Lester says "Low overhead, my boy – we pass the savings on to you!" Then of course is John Malkovich himself. He is just beyond brilliant in this movie. Seeing is he is literally the title character, he still manages to firmly steal the show from everyone else. But again I refuse to spoil this one for you. Suffice it to say, however, that the scene where he goes through the portal himself is mind blowing! And finally we have



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Cameron Diaz, who is unrecognizable almost. I love that they matched her somewhat drab look with John's, and they seem a perfect match. It must have been somewhat of a challenge for her to go through this make-over for the movie.

I have told about as much as I could here without spoiling the movie, I sincerely appreciate the enormous work of everyone involved in this film as it must not have been easy to make even if it is just the thought of the actors having to work stooped over for weeks on end for the LesterCorp scenes. I would say, try and see it. It is a cult classic in my book and by far the most bizarre movie I have ever seen. Also, the soundtrack is divine. The music is relaxing and gentle and very evocative.

Please, see this movie. You cannot and will not ever regret doing so!

Being John Malkovich Official Trailer #1 - John Cusack ...



Overall: 5/5

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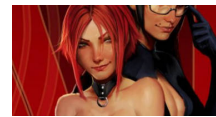
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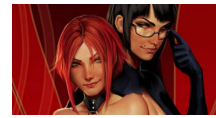
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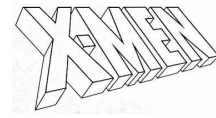
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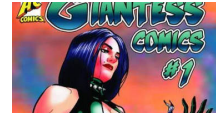
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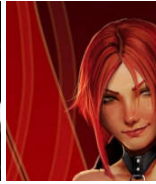




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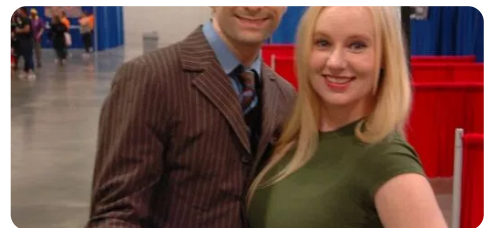
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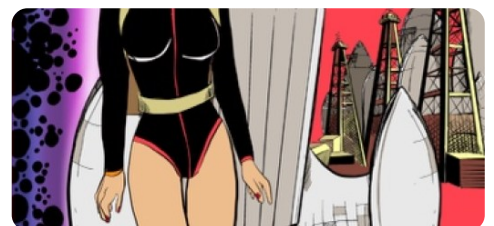


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