

Meet Dave

First thoughts...

Eddie Murphy is someone I really want to like. Fortunately, he keeps allowing me to do so with his movies. I was pretty sure that anything worth seeing in this movie was in the previews. However, I was wrong-- it had a lot more laughs than a thought. Hey critics, I will throw you a bone on this one, the story is kind of weak; the premise is miniature people from outer space inside a space ship that appears to be human and is played by Eddie Murphy.

What Happens...

The story is simple. Dave (Eddie Murphy) leads a crew of inch tall aliens to Earth in an attempt to dry up our oceans and use the salt to power their planet. Once on Earth, Murphy begins to bond with a woman named Gina (Elizabeth Banks) and her son Josh (Austyn Myers). Also being on Earth causes the crew to change in ways that they never imagined. Many comedic and a few serious twists take place during Dave's adventure. Since I don't want to give anything away just know not to expect a strong plot.

What I think about...

The actors.

Dave's crew has a great cast. The main characters on the ship are Murphy, a power hungry Ed Helms as no. 2, a goo-goo eyed Gabrielle Union as the cultural officer, and a true to his scary movie background Kevin Hart playing what I can only assume is a taste bud of Dave's who falls in love with hip-hop. Outside of Dave we have Banks who is a potential love interest for Dave. She was good but not great. I think many others could have played it better. Austyn Myers wasn't very convincing and he mostly over-acts. My favorite was Scott Caan (of the Ocean's ensemble and son of actor James Caan) playing a cop that picks up on Dave's little secret and attempts to discover what Dave wants on the planet Earth.

The directing.

Honestly this is one of those where the director didn't make or break the movie. I felt the actors were the shining star (a dim one but shining) of this film. Yet, I can see how a bad director would have ruined this movie so the directing is adequate but not stand out.

What the critics said.

I actually agreed with most of the critics on this one. However, there were a few I have to dispute-- after all that's why you read these reviews. MSNBC said "It's a pity someone can't guide the course of Starship Murphy to a smarter, funnier universe than the one he's chosen to explore." I agree his humor isn't always witty or smart but instead he stuck with slapstick... and that is what Eddie Murphy does. He is funny in his element and I disagree he needs to use a new style of funny. An SF Chronicle writer said "Director Brian Robbins keeps going for easy laughs." True but my point is to tell you what its like to a normal viewer, and frankly a lot of people like an easy laugh in a movie.

Bottom Line

If the weekend gets slow

Hollywood.com 2 out of 5

Rotten tomatoes 1 out of 5