

Non-Fiction Exemplars

Review

Who's the Boss?

The Boss Baby, Dir. Tom McGrath, Cert. PG



Anyone who's ever spent more than a minute in the same room as a baby will recognise the central premise behind DreamWorks' new movie: they may be tiny bundles of cuteness and cuddles, but babies rule the roost.

This is the lesson that seven-year-old Tim learns pretty quickly when his parents introduce him to his new baby brother. Formerly a perfectly happy single child, Tim's world is turned upside down when his parents focus all their attention on the new arrival, neglecting him in the process.

But this isn't just a simple case of sibling rivalry. Tim soon discovers that his new brother is, in fact, a spy sent to infiltrate his parents' business. Not only can this baby talk, it can also use a phone, chair meetings and concoct dastardly plans.

Or can he? Is this all just the product of Tim's imagination?

Director Tom McGrath moves the action along quickly, and the animation rises above the ordinary in a few scenes, including Tim's first stake-out of his brother's bedroom.

Alec Baldwin, a favourite from long-running TV show '30 Rock', delivers some knock-out lines as the eponymous character. He has just the right delivery to appeal to younger viewers, while older children and adults will get the more sophisticated jokes.

And Miles Christopher Bakshi as the beleaguered Tim is endearing, conveying well the trauma and confusion that a new sibling can bring.

But ultimately, the film doesn't have quite enough clever gags to keep its momentum. The denouement drags and the story isn't sufficiently engaging to make this a must-see.

The one thing that sticks with you after this film? The moral. Don't be fooled by that adorable exterior: babies mean business.

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'30 Rock'

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