

the girl next door 1999 parents guide

The Girl Next Door 1999 Parents Guide

"The Girl Next Door," released in 1999, is a romantic comedy that explores the themes of love, adolescence, and the complexities of growing up. Directed by Luke Greenfield and featuring a cast that includes Emile Hirsch, Elisha Cuthbert, and Timothy Olyphant, the film tells the story of a high school senior who falls for his new neighbor, only to discover that she is an adult film star. While the movie has its humorous moments and romantic charm, it also contains elements that may be concerning for parents. This article provides a comprehensive guide to help parents understand the content of the film and make informed decisions regarding their children's viewing.

Overview of the Film

"The Girl Next Door" centers around the character of Matthew Kidman, an ordinary high school senior who leads a rather uneventful life. His world is turned upside down when he meets his beautiful new neighbor, Danielle. As their relationship blossoms, Matthew uncovers Danielle's secret life in the adult film industry, leading to a series of hilarious yet poignant events that test their relationship and Matthew's moral compass.

Main Themes

The film explores several themes:

1. Coming of Age: Matthew's journey reflects the challenges of adolescence and the process of discovering one's identity.
2. Love and Relationships: The film highlights the complexities of young love and the impact of societal judgments.
3. Moral Dilemmas: Matthew faces moral questions regarding love, honesty, and acceptance.

Content Analysis

Parents should be aware of various aspects of the film that may influence their decision to allow their children to watch it. The film is rated R, indicating that it contains material suitable for mature audiences.

Language

The film contains a significant amount of strong language, including:

- Frequent use of profanity such as "fk," "st," and "bch."
- Various insults and derogatory terms that may not be suitable for younger viewers.

Parents may want to consider whether their children are exposed to this level of language in their everyday lives, as it could normalize such speech.

Sexual Content

One of the most significant concerns for parents is the sexual content portrayed in the film. Key points include:

- Adult Film Industry: The central character, Danielle, is revealed to be an adult film star. This premise alone raises questions about sexual maturity and the implications of such a career.
- Sexual Situations: The film includes scenes that involve sexual innuendos, suggestive situations, and references to adult film scenarios.
- Nudity: There are brief scenes that depict nudity and sexual situations, though they are not explicit by adult film standards.

Parents should discuss the implications of these themes with their children, particularly the nature of relationships and the portrayal of women in media.

Violence

While "The Girl Next Door" is primarily a comedy, it does contain moments of mild violence, including:

- Physical Altercations: There are a few scenes where characters engage in fights, typically played for comedic effect.
- Threats: Some characters threaten others, usually in a non-serious manner, which might be concerning for younger viewers.

Although the violence is not graphic, parents may want to consider how their children interpret these scenes.

Character Analysis

Understanding character motivations can provide insight into the film's messages and themes.

Matthew Kidman

Matthew is portrayed as a typical teenager who is both naïve and idealistic. His character

development throughout the film reflects the struggle between societal expectations and personal desires. Key points to note:

- Growth: Matthew learns about love, trust, and the consequences of one's choices.
- Conflict: He grapples with the stigma associated with Danielle's career and the judgments of his peers.

Danielle

Danielle serves as both the romantic interest and a symbol of the film's central conflict. Her character is multifaceted, representing both vulnerability and empowerment. Important aspects include:

- Empowerment vs. Objectification: Danielle's character challenges viewers to consider the complexities of her life choices and the societal perceptions of women in adult entertainment.
- Relationship Dynamics: Her relationship with Matthew raises questions about love, acceptance, and the impact of external pressures.

Parental Discussion Points

After watching "The Girl Next Door," parents may wish to discuss the following topics with their children:

1. Understanding Relationships: Talk about the nature of healthy relationships and the importance of communication and honesty.
2. Media Influence: Discuss how movies portray certain lifestyles and the potential impact on real-life perceptions.
3. Respect for Choices: Encourage conversations about individual choices, respect, and the importance of not judging others based on their professions.

Conclusion

"The Girl Next Door" is a film that blends humor and romance while tackling serious themes surrounding love, identity, and societal expectations. Its R-rating highlights the need for parental guidance due to language, sexual content, and mild violence. Parents should consider the maturity of their children and the messages conveyed in the film before allowing them to view it. Engaging in conversations after watching can help contextualize the film's content and foster a deeper understanding of the issues presented. As with any film, open dialogue and critical thinking are essential tools for navigating the complex themes of adolescence and adulthood.

Frequently Asked Questions

What age group is 'The Girl Next Door' (1999) appropriate for according to its parents guide?

The film is generally rated R, indicating that it is suitable for adults and may not be appropriate for viewers under 17 without parental guidance.

What are some of the mature themes addressed in 'The Girl Next Door'?

The film explores themes such as teenage sexuality, relationships, and the complexities of growing up.

Does 'The Girl Next Door' contain strong language?

Yes, the film includes frequent use of strong language, which is a significant factor in its R rating.

Are there any explicit scenes in 'The Girl Next Door'?

Yes, the film features sexual content and nudity, which are important considerations for parents.

What parental concerns should be noted regarding violence in 'The Girl Next Door'?

While the film is primarily a romantic comedy, it includes some scenes that may be considered violent or aggressive, which could be concerning for younger viewers.

Is drug use depicted in 'The Girl Next Door'?

Yes, there are instances of drug use depicted in the film, contributing to its mature content.

How does 'The Girl Next Door' handle the topic of consent?

The film addresses issues of consent in the context of teenage relationships, which can be a point of discussion for parents with their children.

Are there any positive messages in 'The Girl Next Door'?

Despite its mature content, the film conveys themes about love, friendship, and the importance of communication in relationships.

What should parents discuss with their teens after watching 'The Girl Next Door'?

Parents may want to discuss the themes of relationships, consent, and the portrayal of sexuality to promote healthy conversations.

Where can parents find more information about the content of 'The Girl Next Door'?

Parents can check film review websites, parental guides like Common Sense Media, or the film's official ratings to gather more information about its content.

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