

THE NYC MOVIE GURU

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Greetings from the Shore Review



After the death of her father, Jenny (Kim Shaw) spends her last summer after high school at Lavallette, an island on the Jersey Shore. She finds a job at a yacht club working as a waitress and as an ESL teacher for the restaurant employees in order to save up enough money to finance her tuition at Columbia University. One of the employees, Benicio (David Fumero), whom she also teaches English, starts flirting with her and the two gradually become romantically involved. Jenny also meets a very kind older man, Catch Turner (Paul Sorvino), who serves as her mentor and father figure. Director/co-writer Greg Chwerchak wisely breathes life into the film by including at least a few believable and well-developed characters, namely Jenny, Benicio and Catch Turner. The only exception is Jenny's boss (Flip Dooley), whose consistently condescending tone of voice gets annoying. It's a real pleasure to watch the genuinely beautiful Kim Shaw, who uncannily resembles a young version of Reese Witherspoon, deliver such a charismatic, radiant performance as Jenny. Paul Sorvino's brief scenes as Catch provide much-needed warmth and gravitas to balance the light and breezy atmosphere of the film. Fortunately, co-writers Greg Chwerchak and Gabrielle Berberich don't let the dialogue become too preachy or corny and, in turn, allow for some unexpectedly moving scenes. They also keep the plot's contrivances low so that you don't roll your eyes too often. Moreover, the picturesque scenery of Lavallette Island becomes a character of its own by adding breathtaking moments and a bit of enchanting charm along the way. Although it has no real surprises or truly profound insights about life or love other than the importance of following your heart, *Greetings from the Shore* at least manages to be captivating, uplifting and even somewhat engrossing. Number of times I checked my watch: 1. Released by Newstyle Releasing.