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Curious George

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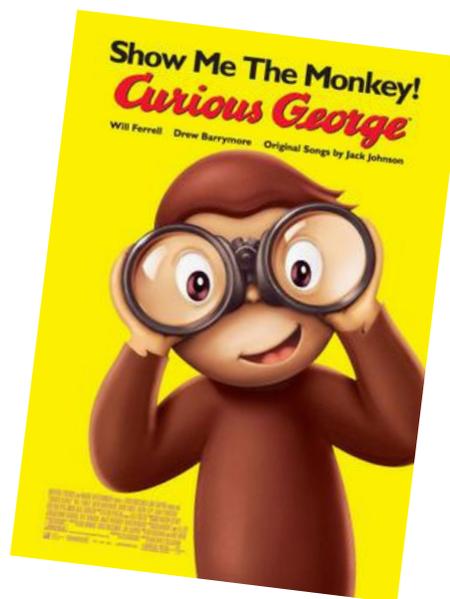
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Movie Review

Title: Curious George
Main Performers: Will Ferrell, Drew Barrymore, David Cross
Director: Matthew O'Callaghan
Producer: Ron Howard
Reviewer: Amanda Durrant
Studio: Universal Studios
Year Released: 2006
Run Time: 86 minutes
MPAA Rating: G
Interest Level: Toddler, Preschool
Rating: Excellent



Review

In this Curious George movie, we are introduced to Ted, a guide at a museum (who we learn is the man in the yellow hat). He is on a mission to save the museum by finding the forty foot tall lost shrine of Zagawa in the African jungle, but his plans are being thwarted by the museum owner's son. Ted goes to Africa and finds a small red statue that he thinks is the shrine, and meets a curious little monkey who loves playing peekaboo with Ted. When Ted talks to the museum director, the size of the shrine is blown out of proportion and Ted gets on a ship back to the America to deliver his discovery to the museum. The little monkey has grown fond of Ted and stows away on the boat. During the unveiling at the museum the monkey causes chaos and Ted allows animal control to take the monkey. Ted realizes he made a mistake and goes after the monkey. On board the ship back to Africa, the monkey figures out that the small shrine is actually a map the the large lost shrine. The monkey and Ted find the lost shrine of Zagawa in Africa. He keeps the curious monkey and names him George.

Kids will love this movie because of the crazy antics of George and the vibrant action packed colored animation, keeping the tradition of the original book series. The story line is great because it repeatedly teaches children that material things aren't what is most important in life, but rather love and friendships are much more valuable. The characters are the same as in the beloved PBS series, with well known actors and actresses voicing the characters. Kids will also love the music in the film and often sing, hum, and even dance along to the catchy score while the movie is playing. This movie repeatedly reinforces the idea that youngsters are curious and that it can often get them into trouble, but that that doesn't make them any less loved.