

## ***“I Feel Pretty”***

*By Helen Lutz*

While growing up my grandmother would from time-to-time remind me that “beauty is only skin deep ... but ugly goes clear to the bone.” My grandmother was a very wise woman. We saw a fun portrayal of this concept years ago when the movie “Shallow Hal” graced movie screens and Jack Black, while under some spell, magically saw people as they truly were as opposed to how they appeared to the rest of the world. If you missed that one, it’s a fun rental.



Amy Schumer brings the concept to life again in her new movie “I Feel Pretty” currently playing on theater screens everywhere; but with a different twist. We meet Renee Bennett (Schumer) who is a 30-something year old working for a glitzy and glamorous cosmetics company relegated to the basement in the non-glamorous world of computers and websites. She longs to be something more, but tends to be invisible. While attending a Spin class, she falls and hits her head – it’s a life changing moment.

While recuperating in the changing room she suddenly notices her legs, her arms and her body – what a body! Looking in the mirror she sees a beauty – a number ten all the way. Could this possibly be her? It’s a miracle! Unfortunately, she is the only one able to see this miraculous transformation – the rest of the world still sees frumpy Renee.

Directors Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein try to give us a peek behind the curtain of what we could be. Armed with a newfound self esteem and healthy self image, Renee exudes confidence. She can do anything to include applying for the front desk receptionist position at the high end cosmetics firm for which she works. She’s just as pretty and sexy as any of the other applicants. As only in the movies, her confidence gets her the job and she’s good at it.

Renee’s next step is to talk to a random, good looking guy, Ethan (Rory Scovel), in the dry cleaners standing behind her in line. Of course he must be dying to ask for her number – so she sees to it that he does and gives it to him. He doesn’t quite know what to make of her, but is intrigued.

“I Feel Pretty” takes us through Renee’s adventure of being one of the pretty girls (and at times one of the Mean Girls) as she comes out of her shell to show the world just how wonderful and talented she really is. Rising to the position of spokesperson for a less expensive line of cosmetics that the company is launching at Target (I wonder what they paid for that product placement?). She’s probably the only person in the entire building who has ever even shopped at a Target.

While the movie contains some laughs, it’s good if you are an Amy Schumer fan as we must stretch to go along with her character (“Shallow Hal” was much easier to visualize). The thought of girl power and self esteem is important, but never really hits the mark. Most of the scenes are predictable, especially when the inevitable second bop on the head in the shower clears Renee’s thinking providing a, once again, clear vision of herself. Will she be able to keep up her charade? On a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give “I Feel Pretty” ONE 1/2 HARTS. It tries to share an important message ... but comes up a bit short.