

“Little”

By Helen Lutz

Have you ever wanted to go back in time for a re-do? When I broke my foot bowling and ended up in a plaster cast up to my thigh I wanted a re-do. When I put on a Sumo Wrestling suit (at age 50, yes – really not smart) and tore up my right knee, I also wanted a re-do. However, I’ve never really wanted to go back and relive my childhood, high school or college days (please, once was enough).

Hollywood enjoys movies which turn lives topsy-turvy with mothers and daughters finding themselves in one another’s shoes as in “Freaky Friday” or Tom Hanks learning what it’s like to be a 12 year old boy in a 30 year old body in “Big”. A new rendition of the old story is now in theaters everywhere in Tina Gordon’s new film “Little”.



We first meet Jordan Sanders (Marsai Martin) as a 13 year old girl in middle school. Jordan’s strength is being smart, but she’s not very popular. She decides to display her science project in the school’s talent show which works out beautifully until one of the ‘mean girls’ goes above and beyond to ruin the project and make her the laughing stock of the school. Jordan decides that one day she’ll grow up and no one will laugh at her; which is exactly what she does. As founder and CEO of a highly successful tech company, Jordan (Regina Hall) has the world at her fingertips. She is also one of the world’s biggest bullies – her staff trembles and hides when she enters the premises. Jordan is a woman in total control of her life and everyone else’s.

So what happens when a cupcake food truck stops outside her office; an office in which no carbs are allowed? She has a meltdown which is exasperated when little Stevie (Marley Taylor), the daughter of the truck owner, comes inside her business. After suffering Jordan’s rebuke, Stevie waves her magic wand at her and wishes that Jordan was – little.

Magic has a funny way of working in a fantasy film. As Jordan awakens the next morning, she finds herself as a 38 year old in her 13 year old body. She quickly learns that when she pushes, now people push back. She calls on her assistant, April (Issa Rae), the assistant who has never been good enough or smart enough, to come to her immediate aid. At first it’s a hard sell, but it doesn’t take long for the snotty little Jordan, who has ticked off everyone in the building, to convince April that she is in need of serious help. Especially when the nosey neighbor calls child protective services about a 13 year old who isn’t in school. Of course the banned cupcake truck and magic wand have disappeared.

Jordan returns to the middle school, which she hates, only to find that kids are still bullies and that she is welcome only at the outcast lunch table. She also learns what friendship is all about. The highlight of her first day is when she and her ‘Auntie April’ meet her teacher Mr. Marshall (Justin Hartley); they would both like a piece of his action, however, it really does get a bit creepy.

Gordon does a nice job of showing how as children we know who we are and that the experiences of childhood help sculpt who we become in both good ways and not so good. She also promotes the abilities of little girls to grow up to be smart, confident women able to start and head up their own successful companies – without being bullies. On a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give “Little” ♡♡ 1/2 HARTS. It’s a fun movie to watch especially having come to the screen at the suggestion of “Little” star, Marsai Martin when she was only ten. This little girl has quite a future in store and will be fun to watch as she matures.