

MR. BILL – TMFF Review

As we have learned through history, there have been countless brilliant people who have been ignored on their ideas, theories, or works by the people they work with (or by humankind itself), and it isn't until too late that everybody comes to realize their mistakes. *Mr. Bill* is yet another perfect example of it.

Mr. Bill follows the real-life story of a disabled veteran who discovers a super-fast trajectory to Mars but, instead of being listened to by his peers, is expelled just one semester short of getting his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering. The premise itself is upsetting because, well, how is it possible that something like that could happen? It is simply terrible that what could have been a great discovery (and one that comes from a veteran man who has lost more than enough) is blocked by the closed minds of just a few individuals who can see greatness. But, again, how many times haven't we heard the same thing? In the words of Garfunkel and Oates, "people can't stand genius without an apology",... and we'll get to this later.

The first thing that it has to be said about *Mr. Bill* is that, despite the heartbreaking events behind it, the script itself is quite an enjoyable experience. Once again, the writer has managed to create a likable adventure of a rebellious individual trying his very best to do what is right while the square people from the system fail to see the brilliance of their work.

Mr. Bill is the average day man... well, for the most part. His intelligence is above average, but he enjoys going out with girls, hanging out with friends, and even helping his neighbors. He is the kind of man we all would like to have as a friend, so it is very easy to root for him right from the moment we meet him... and it is quite upsetting to see the way he is underappreciated by his bosses. It doesn't matter his efforts, nor the fact that his radio show is what has increased the popularity of the place where he works by quite a bit. No. He is fired... and if that wasn't enough, he is even forced to leave the place right away, not being able to say something to the people who worked with him for years. Among them is Brooklyn, a hell of a woman and a hell of a character who we get to fall in love with from the moment she comes to the screen (or page), and that will be key to making Bill carry on with his work even on the darkest moments.

Bill won't have it easy. He'll spend most of the time fighting every square individual, trying to prove that his work is right, and fighting himself to keep on going, thus making the entire experience a rather inspirational one. After all, how many of us haven't faced rejection and disappointment caused by a group of people that just don't get what we're trying to do? Or that, even worse, make it personal? Ultimately, that's what prevents Bill from achieving his goals. It is not his fault. It is not his lack of brilliance. No. It's the grudge and the envy of others. That awful sense of power some people are given for the wrong reasons, and that prevent humankind from moving on. Ah! If only people were able to be objective about the common good instead of making

everything so personal! The most atrocious thing is that not even the big agencies we are supposed to trust save themselves from these mistakes. Not even NASA.

So, sadly, the script doesn't end on a good note. No matter how hard Bill fights for it, he doesn't get what he wants, and he even loses great things along the way (among them Brooklyn, with whom he is forbidden to have contact). He doesn't even get the apology. But what can one do? That's real life... and in real life, the heroes rarely win. Perhaps that is why when they do, we get so excited about it. Because it is something that, deep down, we wish would happen but probably know won't be the case. *C'est la vie...*

Again, that is not to say that the story itself isn't enjoyable. It is. The writer shows a clear voice against the system and creates a terrific atmosphere full of interesting characters, most of which are likable. Besides Bill and Brooklyn, we all have a great time with people such as Dr. Z (who is as cool as his name) and Bill's students, who'll bring a lot of varied and fun ideas on what it'd happen if humankind arrived to Mars, and all of this makes it a perfect option for a dramedy that could perform quite well as a streaming platform movie. But, at the end of the day, the script will leave us feeling a little down about how things turned out for Bill and hoping that this kind of situation doesn't keep happening.