

# Movie Review

**"Something Wild"**  
 Directed by Jonathan Demme  
 Starring Melanie Griffith, Jeff Daniels and Ray Liotta  
 ★★★★★

Most of our lives are spent struggling to balance the two opposing forces of chaos and order.

Occasionally one of the forces becomes more powerful and life is turned upside down. "Something Wild" is about one of those occasions.

Charles Driggs (Jeff Daniels) lives a nice, quite, conservative life. He has been promoted to a vice president's position at his corporation and things are looking comfortable for his future. But Charlie is a "closet rebel." He likes to add spice to his life every once a while buy skipping out on a check or taking a newspaper without paying for it.

One day after Charlie skips out of a diner without paying for his meal, he is confronted by a strange woman who calls herself Lulu (Melanie Griffith). Lulu says she understands his need for some excitement and offers him a ride back to work. Instead of taking him to work, Lulu throws his beeper out the window and heads out of town.

In the course of the afternoon, Lulu robs a liquor store, Charlie and Lulu have wild sex, Charlie calls his office and lies about missing work during wild sex with Lulu, they get drunk, they pick up a few hitchhikers and they have a good time.

Lulu takes Charlie home to meet her mother. Lulu, who now claims her name is Audrey Hankel, asks Charlie to pretend that they are married for her mother's sake. Charlie agrees and even enjoys playing along with the farce. As husband and wife, Charlie and Audrey

attend Audrey's high school reunion.

Audrey's ex-husband, Ray Sinclair (Ray Liotta), shows up at the reunion unexpectedly. Ray pretends to be friends with Charlie and tricks him into helping rob a convenience store. After Ray has had his fun, he makes Audrey stay with him and Charlie is forced to leave.

Charlie decides he wants Audrey back. He needs the element of surprise that she provides. Audrey feels the need for the stability and respectability that Charlie provides. But both have to overcome Ray to win what they want.

"Something Wild" is a film that can be enjoyed on many levels. It can be viewed as a great metaphysical struggle between the forces of chaos and order. Ray represents the destructive force of chaos. Larry represents the entropic force of order.

Charlie and Audrey each embrace one of the forces, but both realize the need for balancing the forces.

It's also fun to watch "Something Wild" for the characters. Jeff Daniels, star of "The Purple Rose of Cairo," is perfect for the role of Charlie. He is straight-laced but with a little touch of rebellion. Melanie Griffith is also perfect as Lulu/Audrey. As Lulu she is wild and uncontrollable, but when she "becomes" Audrey she takes on qualities that are sweet and girl-next-doorish. Ray Liotta is perfect in the role of Ray Sinclair. Sinclair is obviously both crazy and evil.

Jonathan Demme, whose credits include "Melvin and Howard" and the Talking Heads' fantastic concert film, "Stop Making Sense," is a brilliant director. Demme blends music and story to achieve a total audio and

video experience.

"Something Wild" is a film that can be enjoyed because it's a fun movie

with elements of comedy and drama that should please any audience.

by Karl Pallmeyer

**THE GRAPEVINE**

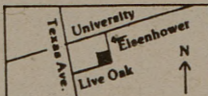
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