



he is confronted by someone anti-military and says, "You know, opinions are like left ears. Everybody seems to have one." (Okay, I am lying. He picked another bodily orifice, one that salty military types mention more often than left ears.) Anyway, that quote seems fitting from the response I got to my L\_a\_s\_t\_a\_n\_d\_F\_i\_r\_s\_t M\_e\_n review. People commented on my statement that you can recreate

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the texture of a mountain in a computer. Mountain experts apparently claim that the texture you get is not really mountain-like. Computer experts claim that it is. I have been getting mail from computer people who support the mountaineers. I just want all of you to know you have a right to your opinions, but only so far. Some opinions verge on treason. You can knock our country all you want. It's not me to tell you not to. But when you start siding with Grizzly Adams over Benoit Mandelbrot, this field isn't big enough for the both of us. Why don't you go climb a rock? (I guess I told 'em.)

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## MIDNIGHT RUN

A film review by Mark R. Leeper  
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Capsule review: An Odd Couple--on the run from just about everybody in the film that has wheels or wings to chase them--learn to like each other.  M \_ i \_ d \_ n \_ i \_ g \_ h \_ t \_ R \_ u \_ n is a diverting and enjoyable but an unoriginal action film.  
Rating: +1.

High Concept. Picture this: The Odd Couple in a cops-and-robbers chase movie. Well, maybe not the original Odd Couple, but you have the slob and the high-strung neurotic. The slob is a bounty hunter who smokes, eats greasy food, cusses...that sort of thing. He's got to bring the accountant of a Las Vegas gangster and heroin dealer from New York to Los Angeles. Any of these "odd couple" movies work on the principle that if you get to know somebody, even of a very different type, whom you start out hating, you of course get to like the other guy as you get to know him. The odd couple plot has already been done at

least once on the road with last year's Planes, Trains, and  
Automobiles.  
MidnightRun has its own odd couple (as well as its own planes, trains,  
and automobiles).

Bounty hunter Jack Walsh (played by Robert DeNiro having the time  
of his life) has got to get Jonathan Mardukas (played by Charles Grodin)  
from New York to Los Angeles. On the up side, he will get \$100,000 just  
for bringing one guy in. On the down side, 1) he cannot stand Mardukas,  
2) Mardukas is too neurotic to fly the distance so they have to go by  
ground transport, 3) the FBI wants to stop them because they want to  
bring Mardukas in, 4) another bounty hunter wants to stop them because  
he wants to bring Mardukas in, and 5) the Mob would like to stop them,  
not just because they do not want Mardukas to tell what he knows but  
also because he embezzled \$15,000,000 from them. All this is just a  
quaint way of saying that Walsh's chances of getting Mardukas to  
L.A. are less than ideal and that this particular trip is across country  
will not be uneventful.

The two leads of MidnightRun are clever and funny men. Charles  
Grodin has a reputation for being, in real life, one of the funniest and  
wittiest men in filmmaking, but he just cannot project it from the wide  
screen. Or perhaps he is just being himself on screen while other  
actors turn up the clowning switch to "high" while the cameras roll. He  
comes off not so much funny as witty and likable in MidnightRun.  
DeNiro can be funny but somehow the chemistry between the two men never  
really works.

MidnightRun is often funny, has a lot of action and some semi-  
obligatory car chases, and is in general an okay piece of entertainment.  
Rate it a +1 on the -4 to +4 scale.

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