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'Lefty' review

Now that's how low-budget filmmaking is done

By **Matt Pais**
Metromix
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Critic's Rating: ★★★★★



Carrie Norris and Thomas Madden get cozy (Credit: HANDOUT image courtesy of Gene Siskel Film Center)

Lefty

Running time: 93 minutes

Cast:

Dan Antonucci - Coach
Bill Boehler - Dave
Lisa Dodson - Mrs. Phelan
Kymberly Harris - Maureen
Mike Houlihan - Bob Malone

[See full cast](#)

Director: Todd Looby

Genre: Comedy, Drama

Overall User Rating: ★★★★★ (0 ratings)

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It's reunion time for a group of old Chicago friends, as Fudd (Billy Phelan) returns from Iraq and Danny (Thomas Madden) comes back from Colorado to see Fudd--and to deal with the possibility that Danny has cancer.

The buzz: Those are some heavy experiences weighing on this ensemble drama, set primarily among Irish-Americans on Chicago's south side. Here's hoping writer-director Todd Looby steers his debut toward blue-collar honesty and not melodrama.

The verdict: Looby understands what most Hollywood filmmakers don't, which is that we get to know and care about characters so much more when they act like real, flawed people and not phony, stupid movie characters. "Lefty" moves with the ordinary ease of everyday conversation and male-bonding shenanigans, its relationships as well-established as they are forced in a movie like "The Hangover." While paced quicker than it should be, "Lefty" is a moving, authentic snapshot of shifting friendships, neighborhoods and priorities--and why people say it will all be OK, whether they believe it or not.

Did you know? Dave (Bill Boehler) tells Danny that, unfortunately, when a company is going down the tubes they're not exactly looking to hire new staff. The world is so unfair!

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j7595 from South Loop - August 07, 2009 at 9:07 AM

What an accomplishment! This movie is worth seeing. It touches you even if you haven't

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