

THE LOVE GURU (PUBLISHED IN TIME OFF MAGAZINE, BRISBANE)

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Director: Marco Schnabel

Stars: Mike Myers, Justin Timberlake, Jessica Alba, Verne Troyer, Romany Malco

Reviewed by: Vicki Englund

Well, you can't win 'em all. And Mike Myers has certainly produced a loser with *The Love Guru*. He nailed shagadelic '60s spy movies in the Austin Powers outings but he's seriously misplaced his mojo in this spoof of a celebrity guru.

The type of character is ripe for satire, so why does the humour pong so badly? Part of the problem seems to be that Myers couldn't resist injecting Guru Pitka with bits and pieces of Austin Powers, and it's a bad match. Then throw in unfunny midget jibes at Verne Troyer's expense (formerly Mini-Me, who's now allowed to speak as the hockey team's coach).

As for the endless parade of bad-taste jokes about male genitalia and poo (not necessarily together), well, please! Do I look like an eight year-old boy? And just when you think it can't get worse, there's a scene of two elephants simulating sex.

The story has Guru Pitka feeling down because he's only the second best celebrity guru behind Deepak Chopra. But his chance for numero uno fame comes when he's approached by Jane (Alba), who owns an ice hockey team. Their star player, Darren (Malco), has choked because his wife left him for an opposing team's goalie, Jacques "Le Coq" Grande (a brave Timberlake doing his best). If the guru can help Darren win a big match, he'll truly be Oprah-worthy.

There's a handful of chucklesome moments where you hope things will rise out of the sludge, but unfortunately not enough to overcome the "oh my God, what was he thinking" factor.