



Harold and Maude

Presentation by Ji Young Kim

Package Design | GRDS386-A02

Professor Henry Kim | Winter 2016

Overview

PG | 91 min. | Romance, Comedy, Existentialist Drama |
December 20, 1971 (USA) | Paramount Pictures

- Director: Hal Ashby
- Writer: Colin Higgins
- Casting: Ruth Gordon, Bud Cort, Vivian Pickles, et al.

- Awards:
 - Nominated
 - 1972 Golden Globes – Best Motion Picture Actor and Actress – Musical / Comedy (Bud Cort and Ruth Gordon)
 - 1973 BAFTA Awards – Most Promising Newcomer to Leading Film Roles (Bud Cort)
 - Won
 - 1997 National Film Registry – National Film Preservation Board;
 - 1974 Golden Spike – Valladolid International Film Festival (Hal Ashby)



Plot

"Young, rich, and obsessed with death, Harold finds himself changed forever when he meets lively septuagenarian Maude at a funeral." – IMDb

Theme: Death & Life

Death

- The state of lifelessness (both literally and figuratively)
 - The end of one's life
 - Funeral: commemoration of the deceased
 - The hearse; Harold's multiple suicide attempts in front of his mom; Harold's mom ignoring him despite of his attempts (Harold being dead to her); Harold's mom taking over his life
- The new beginning
 - Change
 - The death of old, conventional ideas
 - Funeral: Celebration of the new beginning
 - Yellow umbrella in the crowd of black umbrellas during funeral; enjoying picnic during funeral; watching plants grow and praising their growth, death, and change; sunflower; Harold and Maude's relationship

Life

- Embracing and enjoying the life despite dark past
- The ephemeral quality of aspects of life and making the most of it

Idea: Collector's Edition Casket

