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Michael Giltz

Freelance writer and raconteur

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Movie Review: Rainn Wilson's Kind of Super

Posted: 04/ 1/11 03:14 PM ET

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SUPER 2 1/2 out of 4
In Theaters Now

This comedy was definitely one of the success stories of the Toronto International Film Festival. A similar tale to *Kick-Ass* (which I really enjoyed), it shows a schmucky, average Joe (Rainn Wilson) who turns himself into a superhero when his wife (Liv Tyler) leaves him for a drug-dealing thug (Kevin Bacon) that uses her as a guinea pig for his heroin. Wilson dons a cape, chooses a weapon (a hefty wrench) and coins a catchphrase that is increasingly funny as the film goes on: "Shut up, crime!"

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Comic bookstore geek Ellen Page becomes his VERY enthusiastic sidekick, and the tone veers wildly as Wilson goes from meek to freak, beating up thugs but also mauling a guy for cutting in line at the cinema. (Actually, the guy was meeting a friend, I think, so it doesn't even count as really cutting in the first place.)

The movie is a little unsure of itself tonally because it doesn't quite know what it thinks of its protagonist. But it is weirdly amusing and has cult favorite written all over it for a certain demographic. More negatively, Wilson (quite funny on *The Office*) just isn't up to the dramatic demands. A scene where he curses God for making him such an unattractive loser should be piercing but just isn't. I'm sure this project was in the works long before *Kick-Ass* came to life and they must hate being compared unfavorably to it. But sometimes even superheroes can't catch a break.

Thanks for reading. Michael Giltz is the cohost of *Showbiz Sandbox*, a weekly pop culture podcast that reveals the industry take on entertainment news of the day and features top journalists and opinion makers as guests. It's available free on iTunes. Visit [Michael Giltz at his website](#) and his [daily blog](#). Download his podcast of celebrity interviews and his radio show, also called *Popsurfing* and also available for free on iTunes. Link to him on [Netflix](#) and gain access to thousands of ratings and reviews.

Follow Michael Giltz on Twitter: www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz

The screenshot shows a Twitter interface with a search bar at the top right. Below it are two tweets from the user StevensDaughter. The first tweet says: "Cast: Rainn Wilson, Ellen Page, Liv Tyler Quality: TVRip. Info: http://www.imdb.com/titl..... http://dlvr.it/PXxbP" and is timestamped "1 hour ago from dlvr.it". The second tweet says: "Filmen handlar om kocken Frank (Rainn Wilson) vars fru (Liv Tyler) har lämnat honom för en gangster (Kevin Bacon).... http://dlvr.it/PXxZV" and is also timestamped "1 hour ago from dlvr.it".

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This section contains four small image thumbnails with captions:

- 'The Hangover 2' Trailers: New TV Spots...** (Image of Zach Galifianakis)
- Tom Cruise To Play Cheating Politician In...** (Image of Tom Cruise)
- 'The Greatest Movie Ever Sold': Morgan Spurlock...** (Image of Morgan Spurlock)
- Lindsay Lohan Quickly Released From Jail After...** (Image of Lindsay Lohan)

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- Noam Chomsky Is the World Too Big to Fail? The Contours of Global Order** (Image of Noam Chomsky) | Like 3K
- The Real Reason You're Not Married (And What To Do About It)** (Image of a couple) | Like 196
- AOL Real Estate: Prince William and Kate to Live in Royal Mansion** (Image of Prince William and Kate) | Like 57
- TV Squad: Maria Menounos Relives Her Paparazzi 'Wardrobe Malfunction' on 'Lopez' (VIDEO)** (Image of Maria Menounos) | Like 53

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- Sam Waterston**: Saving Easter Island's Marine Ecosystems
- David O. Russell**: FDR Said it All in 1936 -- Who Will Follow in His Steps Today?

People.com

This section contains three article teasers from People.com:

- Lindsay Lohan Is 'Angry' About Jail Sentence** | READ MORE
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