

Vacation — all we ever wanted?

Hollywood loves comedies and disaster movies, and there's no better way to combine the two than by showing people on vacation, desperate to relax but failing at it. "Mr. Bean's Holiday," opening Friday, has British comic Rowan Atkinson's mostly silent title clown separating a father and son while on holiday in France, then trying to reunite them and wreaking havoc along the way.

Film buffs might recognize the nod to 1953's "M. Hulot's Holiday," but everyone else simply will recognize themselves and some disastrous family trips. Here are a few other cinematic moments of getting away from it all — and into a nightmare.

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Atkinson, Max Baldry & Emma de Caunes in "Mr. Bean's Holiday"

■ THE OUT-OF-TOWNERS (1970)

Destination: New York is a lot harder to visit than it is to live in, as Neil Simon demonstrated in this comedy of errors, directed by Arthur Hiller, where literally everything goes wrong for tourists Jack Lemmon and Sandy Dennis.

Arrival: A gem of bad-old-days NYC — and so much better than the Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn's 1999 remake.

■ NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VACATION (1983)

Destination: Not the first family vacation disaster movie, but one of Chevy Chase's (few) good films still sets the mileage that all other vacation flicks try to match — not to mention providing a reference point for our real-life trips.

Arrival: Now we'll all remember to check the car roof before driving off.

■ WHAT ABOUT BOB? (1991)

Destination: Bill Murray is the skittish, psychoanalyzed patient who just can't understand why his doctor (Richard Dreyfuss) needs all of August off, so he decides the best solution is to join the shrink and his family.

Arrival: Murray overpacks the tics in this comedy of discomfort, making director Frank Oz's lark a little too dark.

■ RV (2006)

Destination: Robin Williams is a guy who has to navigate his career, and a long overdue family bonding session, while driving a rented behemoth to a conference.

Arrival: A hit, but that massive, unwieldy RV is an apt metaphor for this bloated sitcom-ish flick. ♦