

# Film Review: Instant Family

If you're looking for a feel-good movie this year, *Instant Family* might be your light in the darkness. Surely above average considering its current cinematic fellows, this happy movie made a majority of the audience cry. The topic can be described as a popular setting in a rather unusual coat: Pete and Ellie, an (up to that point) childless couple by choice, adopts, by more than one coincidence, three children and experiences the ups and downs of becoming a family. There is no way not to know what will happen next, as the script follows the well-known formula of American comedies.

First, the magician (it is nearly impossible in this analysis not to picture the scriptwriter in a top hat) steps onto the stage and shows us his very ordinary empty box, i.e. the perfectly normal mid-western life of our main characters, while establishing just enough personality for them so that their lines aren't interchangeable. We are also introduced to their slightly crazy family which will become important later. After the magician waves his wand and rattles the box a bit to make sure the situation has really changed, the audience can prepare for the miraculous wonders of the box's new life. The film then routinely follows the emotional roller-coaster ride of ups and downs, a cheesy scene about playing in the sunset and the awaited crisis.



Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/2/28/InstantFamily.png> (13.03.19)

While mostly following this road, this movie sometimes rises above its slightly caricatured characters (whose only reason for action sometimes seems to be, "But the other movies do it too.") and shows real and relevant emotions. More importantly, the whole story carries an unusual amount of sincerity and warmth, making even the most stoic member in the audience shed a tear at some point while thinking, "It was about time I started to cry." In *Instant Family*, any movie fan will find a warm smile, maybe even a good laugh.

– Anna-Marie Christely, 6A