

Overboard

US : 1987 : dir. Garry Marshall : UIP / M-G-M : 112 min
 prod: Alexandra Rose & Anthea Sylbert : scr: Leslie Dixon : dir.ph.: John A Alonzo
Jared Rushton; Jeffrey Wiseman; Brian Price; Jamie Wild
 Kurt Russell; Goldie Hawn; Edward Hermann; Katherine Helmond; Michael Hagerty;
 Roddy McDowall; Frank Campanella; Harvey Alan Miller; Frank Buxton; Carol Williard;
 Doris Hess; Ed Cree; Mona Lyden; Lucinda Crosby; Bing Russell; Richard Stahl; Ray Combs

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω 8 ∅ M ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5543	4.5	8	4	1,680	- 7 7 7 7	No	Oct 2001



*Hold your fire – they're not half so cute as they look. The boys are (top) Jamie Wild and Jeffrey Wiseman, (bottom) Jared Rushton & Brian Price. Source: John Willis Screen World
 On second thoughts, fire away – they're not half so cute as they look.*



In the interests of a cleaner environment, Kurt Russell believes firmly in making good use of any flotsam that should chance his way from the harbour – Goldie Hawn included.

*Source: John Willis
Screen World 1988*

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"Cute comedy about a spoiled heiress who falls off her yacht, suffers amnesia, and is "claimed at the hospital by her supposed husband, a rough-hewn carpenter with a pack of unruly kids. Lightweight and good-natured, with appealing performances by the star duo. McDowall also served as executive producer; director Marshall has a cameo as a drummer, and Hector Elizondo does an unbilled bit as skipper of a garbage scow. *** "

Halliwell's Film Guide review

"An heiress suffering from amnesia is claimed as a wife by a carpenter with three kids¹. Mild amusement is provided by a predictable comedy."

Rating the Movies review:

"In this familiar but amusing romantic comedy, Hawn stars as a spoiled heiress who must suffer a bout with amnesia to learn the true meaning of love. After cheating carpenter Russell out of money that he earned, Hawn falls from her yacht, unnoticed by her husband and crew. When discovered, she cannot remember who she is or where she came from. Russell attempts to exact revenge by convincing her that she is his wife and the mother of his four monstrous kids. This latter-day version of

¹ *Oops, missed one. But what's a kid here or there when you've got four?*

"*Taming of the Shrew*" unfolds with warmth and charm, but may be too sentimental for some viewers. **1/2 "

The Time Out Film Guide review:

"This hilarious and touching romantic comedy recalls the integrated plotting and sophisticated dialogue of '30s Hollywood. Spoiled heiress Joanna (Hawn) and her husband (Hermann) sail their luxury yacht into a tiny Oregon fishing village to effect some repairs. Joanna hires hunky local carpenter Dean Proffitt (Russell) to fit some cupboards, but when his handiwork fails to satisfy, tosses him overboard and sails away. Shortly after, Joanna herself falls overboard and lands in hospital with amnesia. Seizing his chance, Dean claims the rich bitch as his lost wife, mother to four uncontrollable kids... Russell is excellent as overgrown kid Dean; Hawn gives her best performance to date as the hapless heiress turned gutsy wife and mother (the kids aren't just cutely naughty, they're truly obnoxious²), and Marshall's faultless timing makes the most of Leslie Dixon's neatly contrived situations and snappy dialogue."

TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995 review:

"Here's a romantic comedy that's both romantic and a comedy without being sticky about either. Rich bitch Goldie Hawn, married to boring Edward Hermann, falls off her luxury

² *The Time Out offices are a nest of child-haters, as their reviews all too regularly make clear.*

Hawn contemplates a raw chicken with disgust and befuddlement, perhaps dimly recalling her "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In" days, when "comedy" meant hitting people on the head with such objects, or disco-dancing in skimpy bikinis with slogans of the day painted across her erogenous zones.

*Source: John Willis
Screen World 1988*



yacht and surfaces in the home of handyman

Kurt Russell suffering from

amnesia. Having endured her overbearing manner while working on the yacht, Russell claims her as his missing wife, and sets her to work raising his four unruly sons. Needless to say, Goldie, initially repelled by the squalor around her, eventually makes herself indispensable in these five male lives. That all this doesn't make you squirm owes a lot to a script by Leslie Dixon (who also wrote "**OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE**") that's clear-eyed and buzzing with incident and in-built pace. Off-screen couple Hawn and Russell spark well together in this enchanting thirties-style movie directed by Garry Marshall, who went on to make "**BEACHES**" and "**PRETTY WOMAN**" to create a hat-trick of hits. Good for Goldie too: this is something a bit different for her and she brings it off. *** "

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"A haughty heiress falls off her yacht and loses her memory. ***Turkey***"

John Willis Screen World 1988 Film Annual (vol 39) full credits:

"(MGM) Producers: Alexandra Rose, Anthea Sylbert; Director: Garry Marshall; Screenplay: Leslie Dixon; Executive Producer: Roddy McDowall; Photography: John A. Alonzo; Art Directors: James Shanaban, Jim Dultz; Editors: Dov Hoenig, Sonny Baskin; Associate Producer: Nick Abdo; Costumes: Wane Finkelman; Visual Consultant: Lawrence Miller; Music: Alan Silvestri; Casting: Wallis Nicita Associates, JoAnne Zaluski; Production Managers: Michelle Ader, James Herbert; Assistant Directors: Katy Emde, Matt Earl Beesley; Sound: Bruce Bisenz; Assistant Editors: Mark Sadusky, Angel Pine, Bobby Bell, Joe Mosea; Special Effects: Alan E. Lorimer, Lambert A. Powell, Ralph A. Winiger, Richard C. Ratliff,. Set Decorator: Tom Bugenhagen; Set Designers: Judy Cammer, Ron Yates, William James Teegarden; Stunts: Hal Burton; Production Coordinator: Anita Terrian; Orchestrations: James Campbell; Songs by various artists; "I Love You Madly" Music & Lyrics, Harvey Miller; Dolby Stereo; Technicolor; Rated PG; 112 minutes; December release.

Cast:

Joanna/Annie.....Goldie Hawn
 Dean Proffitt.....Kurt Russell
 Grant Stayton III.....Edward Herrmann
 Edith Mintz.....Katherine Helmond
 Billy Pratt.....Michael Hagerty
 Andrew.....Roddy McDowall
 Charlie.....**Jared Rushton**
 Joey.....**Jeffrey Wiseman**
 Travis.....**Brian Price**
 Greg.....**Jamie Wild**
 Captain Karl.....Frank Campanella
 Dr. Norman Korman.....Harvey Alan Miller
 Wilbur Budd.....Frank Buxton
 Rose Budd.....Carol Williard
 Adele Burbridge.....Doris Hess
 Thud Gittman.....Ed Cree
 Gertie.....Mona Lyden
 Tess.....Lucinda Crosby
 Sheriff Earl.....Bing Russell

and Richard Stahl, Ray Combs, Marvin Braverinan, Tim Wright, Tom Wright, John McDowell, Steven Walker, Israel Juarbe, Paul Fonteyn, Antonio Martinez Garcia, Robert Goldman, Keith Syphers, Robert Meadows, Lisa Hunter, Erin Grant, Lisa Beth Ross, Liz Stewart, Laura Fabian, Julie Paris, Paul Tinder, Seen Marshall, Bill Applebaum, Don Thompson, Charley Marie Morgan, Gary Pike, Geof Brewer ”

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Variety Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Radio Times review:

“A charming throwback to the screwball comedies of the thirties with Goldie Hawn as a pampered heiress who loses her memory after falling off her yacht. Carpenter Kurt Russell, who had clashed with her earlier, takes his revenge and convinces her that she is his wife. The obvious chemistry between the two stars is complemented by a support cast that includes Katherine Helmond and Roddy McDowall. Contains swearing. **** ”

“Comedy romance about a carpenter who falsely claims to be the husband of an affluent woman after she loses her memory in an accident. Widescreen. **** ”



Butler Roddy McDowall with rich jerks Goldie Hawn and Edward Hermann aboard their yacht. McDowall, so charming as a boy actor, had a strangely wan and vapourish style as an adult, frequently irritating to watch, but by all accounts he was a gentle and tactful man in real life.

Source: John Willis Screen World 1988 Film Annual

Not to be confused with a 1978 TV movie of the same name with Cliff Robertson and Angie Dickinson. Goldie Hawn must rapidly be gaining ground on Mae West for the title of the longest-reigning sex symbol in Hollywood history. Garbo, Monroe, Bardot all exited the screen before their looks began to fade, while others had to reinvent themselves either as grand dames or serious dramatic actresses. Hawn remains the ditsy sex bomb with the alluring bottom that was her hallmark way back in the sixties – something of a triumph for the California wrinkle-and-sag consultants. The fact she's playing here against real life husband Kurt Russell contributes largely to the film's success as lightweight comedy. They make an appealing couple, and Russell has both charm and humour in his armoury when he chooses to use them.

None of the critics spotted that this is only a disguised re-working of the "**CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS**" story, with Hawn cast in the Freddie Bartholomew role. But beneath its romantic sheen "**OVERBOARD**" is also a class vengeance tale – gypped blue collar worker exacts sweet retribution on loathsome faux aristocrat, and sets her to skivvy as his trailer trash wife. The primary weapon of his revenge is not the "marriage bed" (then it would scarcely be a comedy) but the horde of mongols he is raising (badly) on his own. Happy to have someone wash and cook for them, the four kids readily co-operate in their dad's deception of Hawn. The physical domestic comedy – Hawn in a life-or-death struggle with washing machines – is not handled nearly so well as in "**UNCLE BUCK**" (which took a similar situation in reverse) but then Hawn is no Lucille Ball. The humour rests more on the dialogue, as Russell's efforts to hoodwink his reluctant "wife" start to come apart at the seams.

After her initial horror subsides into fatalism, she helps Russell win a contract to build a "Wonders of the World" miniature golf course, helps the youngest son over his reading problems, and cuts the boys' aghast schoolteacher down to size (a scene also repeated in "**UNCLE BUCK**"). When, inevitably, she and Russell become emotionally involved and he tries to put an end to the charade, the kids have no intention of kissing off such a boon to their household. And then, of course, the real husband shows up. He's known where she was all along, and glad to be rid of her, but Hawn's mother (Helmond) delivers a habeas corpus ultimatum to him, so he is forced to reclaim her. The rest you can work out without any assistance from me.

Jared Rushton appeared the following year in the book-end sequences of "**BIG**", as the boy who turns overnight into Tom Hanks, and in 1989 he made Disney's "**HONEY I SHRUNK THE KIDS**", but nothing else is known of his three screen brothers. They're a slobbish, unappealing mob, and although the script plainly doesn't intend to elicit our support for the women of the school system who are so aghast at the way widower Russell is raising his brood, they do look like a family who would respond better to a cattle prod than a cuddle.

See subject index under [BRATS / SPOILT CHILDREN](#), **COMEDY** and [VENGEANCE / VIGILANTEISM](#).