



Running on Empty (2024)

## Description

### A Quirky Journey Through Life and Love

“Running on Empty” (2024) is a darkly comedic romantic film [directed](#) by **Daniel Andr** that [explores themes](#) of mortality, love, and the quest for meaning in a world dictated by death dates. Starring **Keir Gilchrist, Lucy Hale, Francesca Eastwood**, and the comedic legend **Jim Gaffigan**, the [film presents](#) a distinctive narrative that blends humor with poignant moments.











The story follows **Mortimer**, an odd yet clever [young man](#) living a mundane life in California's San Fernando Valley. His world is turned upside down when he learns he has less than a year to live. Following this life-altering news, Mortimer's fiancée, **Nicole**, leaves him, prompting him to seek solace and [connection](#) through a dating service that matches individuals based on their death dates. It is here that he meets **Kate** (played by Lucy Hale), who becomes a significant part of his journey as he navigates the complexities of life and love while being stalked by a disturbed pimp.

The film's premise is both intriguing and absurd, allowing for a blend of [dark comedy](#) and light science fiction elements. Critics have noted that while the [film attempts](#) to tackle serious themes, it often leans heavily into quirky humor, which may not resonate with all viewers. The screenplay, while clever at times, has been described as lacking depth, with some reviewers feeling that it does not fully capitalize on its interesting premise.

Visually, "Running on Empty" captures the essence of its quirky narrative through vibrant cinematography that reflects the colorful yet chaotic life of its protagonist. The film's pacing has [received mixed](#) reviews, with some critics suggesting that it struggles to maintain momentum



throughout its runtime of **1 hour and 31 minutes**.

The performances are a highlight, particularly Keir Gilchrist's portrayal of Mortimer, which balances vulnerability and humor. Lucy Hale's performance as Kate adds a layer of charm and relatability, making their connection feel genuine amidst the film's absurdity. Jim Gaffigan, known for his [comedic prowess](#), brings a unique flair to his role, contributing to the film's overall quirky tone.

## Positive Reviews

### 1. Unique and Fun Storyline:

- The film is praised for its fun and unique storyline, standing out among 2024 releases. It offers a fresh take on the theme of finding love in the face of mortality, making it an enjoyable and entertaining watch [1 2](#).

### 2. Strong Performances:

- Keir Gilchrist and Lucy Hale's performances are highlighted for their delightful chemistry and depth. Their portrayals add a pleasant atmosphere to the film, with Hale's performance particularly shining [2 3 4](#).

*Unable to render imageKeir Gilchrist as Mort*

### 3. Excellent Production Values:

- The film is noted for its beautiful cinematography and artful lighting. The seamless transitions between Mort's inner mind palace and the real world are reminiscent of the classic HBO series "Six Feet Under" [2](#).

### 4. Joyful Contemplation of Life:

- "Running on Empty" is described as a joyful contemplation of life, offering a solid calling card for director Daniel André. It presents a unique exploration of mortality and the concept of time, making it an [engaging watch](#) for fans of this type of comedy [2 5](#).

## Mixed to Negative Reviews

### 1. Tonal Inconsistency and Scattered Narrative:

- Critics find the film tonally inconsistent and chaotic, with events and romance feeling rushed and aimless. The narrative is described as scattered, with the film struggling to find a clear direction [6 7 8](#).

### 2. Underexplored Premise:

- While the film's concept of a dating service that matches people by their death dates is praised for its originality, it is criticized for being underexplored. The premise is seen as a paper-thin setup for a chaotic series of events and romance [6](#).

### 3. Lack of Character Development:

- The film is criticized for its lack of logic, weak [character development](#), and mismatched romance. Questions are raised about why characters do not explore medical options to extend their lifespan, and certain characters, including Kate, could have been further developed to enrich the narrative [6 3 9](#).

### 4. Disconnected Comedy:

- The comedy in the film is described as disconnected from the intended message, failing to land throughout the movie. The jokes with overt sexual undertones are highlighted as particularly strong, but the overall comedic delivery is seen as abrasive and belligerent [2 4](#).

5. Lackluster Execution:

- The film is noted for its lackluster execution, with the plot becoming unnecessarily complicated and tonally inconsistent. Despite the presence of talented comedians like Jim Gaffigan and Jay Pharoah, their performances are seen as hampered and running low on creative energy [8](#).

User ratings for “Running on Empty” reflect a mixed reception, currently holding a score of **5.9/10** on IMDb and a **62%** audience score on Rotten Tomatoes. Critics have pointed out that while the film has its moments of brilliance, it ultimately falls short of delivering a cohesive narrative that fully explores its themes. (Sources: [IMDb](#), [Rotten Tomatoes](#), [iWatchOnline](#))

Factual Table:

Aspect	Details
Title	Running on Empty (2024)
Director	Daniel Andr
Voice Cast	Keir Gilchrist, Lucy Hale, Francesca Eastwood, Jim Gaffigan
Runtime	1 hour 31 minutes
Themes	Mortality, Love, Quest for Meaning
User Ratings	IMDb: 5.9/10, Rotten Tomatoes: 62%
Recommended	<b>Worth Watching</b>

In conclusion, “Running on Empty” is a quirky romantic comedy that offers a unique take on life and love in the face of mortality. While it may not resonate with everyone due to its uneven pacing and tonal shifts, it provides an entertaining exploration of human connections and the absurdity of life. Fans of dark comedies and those looking for a film that challenges conventional narratives may find this [film worth watching](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

What is “Running on Empty” about?

“Running on Empty” follows Mortimer, a young man who learns he has less than a year to live and [navigates life](#) and love through a dating service that matches people by their death dates.

Is “Running on Empty” suitable for all audiences?

The film is rated R and contains dark themes and humor, making it more suitable for mature audiences.

Who directed “Running on Empty”?



The film was directed by Daniel Andr, known for his work in the romantic comedy genre.

### How does this film compare to other [romantic comedies](#)?

“Running on Empty” combines elements of dark comedy and science fiction, setting it apart from traditional romantic comedies that typically focus solely on love stories.

### Where can I find more information about “Running on Empty”?

You can find more information on [iWatchOnline](#), [IMDb](#), and [Rotten Tomatoes](#), which offer detailed overviews and user reviews of the film.

In summary, “Running on Empty” is a unique exploration of life and love that challenges viewers to reflect on their own existence. Its quirky narrative and engaging performances make it a noteworthy addition to the romantic comedy genre.

### CATEGORY

1. Reviews
2. Movies

### POST TAG

1. 2024
2. Drama
3. Film Review
4. movie analysis
5. Running on Empty

### ACTOR

1. Francesca Eastwood
2. Jim Gaffigan
3. Keir Gilchrist
4. Lucy Hale

### DIRECTOR

1. Daniel Andr

### GENRE

1. Comedy
2. Romance

### RATING

1. 5

## STREAMING-PLATFORM

1. iwatchonline

## MOVIE YEAR

1. 2024

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