

gives herself a misery makeover. Director: Ari Sandel (1:35). PG-13: Sexuality, language, partying Area theaters.

Somebody's DUFF" shirt.

In director Ari Sandel's entertaining teen comedy, based on a YA novel, DUFFness is a state of mind: It's about owning your outsiderhood. As narrator Bianca (Mae Whitman) puts it, there's more to high school — and life — than princesses, athletes, brains and basket cases.

Snarky, slightly schlumpy Bianca happens to be BFFs with her school's most popular girls (played by Bianca Santos and Skyler Samuels). She's never

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50 of the sexiest movie scenes

'McFarland, USA,' movie review

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'Hot Tub Time Machine 2' movie review:

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Circling the drain

thought much of it until football team captain Wes (Robbie Amell) points out that she's their DUFF. Every group has one: the wallflower who doesn't quite click, who consistently gets pushed aside.

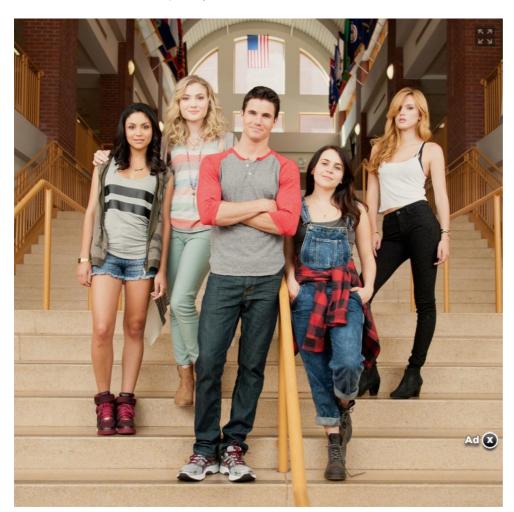
9 'Wild Tales,' movie review 10 'All the Wilderness,' movie review

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Bianca is initially depressed by this observation. But then she gets proactive, asking Wes to help her overcome her DUFF status.

The plan backfires spectacularly when Wes' girlfriend, mega-mean girl Madison (Bella Thorne), decides to ruin Bianca. Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter are her weapons of destruction.

It's a modern twist on a classic kind of tale — classic being the John Hughesera '80s. "The DUFF" references predecessors like "The Breakfast Club" and "Can't Hardly Wait" with wit and humor. It's easy to connect to Bianca's misery and be inspired by her defiance.



### **EDITORS' PICKS**

Oscar nominated costume designers share their sketches This year's Academy Award nominees for Best Costume Design were a cut above the rest.



Character actor J.K. Simmons gets Hollywood treatment He'll always be in a New York state of mind.





#### Critics call celebrityfilled New York Fashion Week a misfit

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As designers take their bows after the fall/winter 2015 shows, New York



Suri Cruise's early look at 'Cinderella' brings rave reviews

Suri Cruise, along with 15 classmates, were treated to a private preview of "Cinderella" in Los



10 Richest Peop Who Did Not Fini College (Interesticle)



CBS Stars Must | Doing Serious Crunches for Ab Like These (CBS)



Uncommon Uses Vinegar That Wil Change Your Lif (ULIVE)



10 Times Kris Je Was Completely Utterly Shameles (Answers.com)



Robbie Amell and Mae Whitman, with Bella Thorne (far r.) in "The DUFF."

Still, there's something off about a movie that suggests we should all embrace our inner DUFF yet presents an entire cast of superhot teens. If feels like the whole screen's been airbrushed: Bianca's friends are beautiful, her crushes are gorgeous, even the extras are extra-attractive. Where are the geeks, the fangirls, the painfully uncool or even just awkward kids?

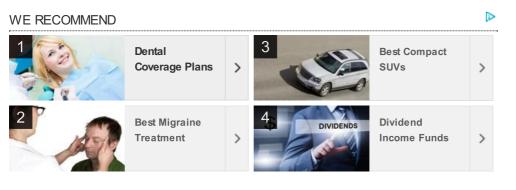
Fortunately, the cast — featuring Allison Janney as Bianca's scattered mom and Ken Jeong as her sympathetic mentor - is savvy and silly.

Really, though, most of the credit goes to Whitman, who stands in, and stands up, for the DUFF in all of us.

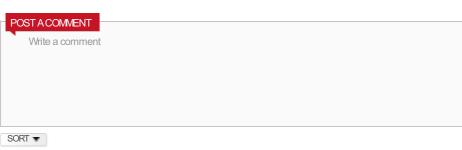
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COMMENTS

TAGS: movie reviews, the duff, mae whitman, bianca santos, skyler samuels, robbie amell, bella thorne



[Discussion Guidelines]



#### EDITORS' PICKS

Larenz Tate's 'White Water' looks at segregation, 1963 style



Larenz Tate says his kids won't immediately grasp his new TV One movie.

Tom Hanks will be first guest on new 'Late Late Show' "Into the Woods" star James Corden will make

his hosting debut March 23. He will take over for



. . . . . . . . . . . . .

#### Fallon, Martin Short play 'Word Sneak' on Tonight Show

Jimmy Fallon invited Martin Short to play a hilarious game called "Word Sneak.

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#### SEE IT: Cable TV stations speeding up shows to fit more ads

At least two cable TV stations are speeding up sitcom reruns and classic movies to cram more .....

#### Bill O'Reilly's war reporting now called into question

The top-rated cable news anchor is accused of exaggerating his war stories while covering the

#### Art Garfunkel's Manhattan apartment catches fire

Art Garfunkel's penthouse apartment was almost turned into dust in the wind by a fire Thursday

'Two and a Half Men' ends with focus on 2 Charlies

The final two episodes of "Two and a Half Men" Thursday night were all



about the two Charlies.



death sparks reactions on Twitter Harris Wittels, one of the executive producers of "Parks and Recreation,"

died of an alleged drug 



Jon Stewart calls out Seth Rollins after 'Daily Show' slam Did Jon Stewart just challenge WWE star Seth

Rollins to a match? .....



Oliver Sacks. medicine's poet, reveals he's dying Oliver Sacks has just months to live, the neurologist and best selling author annou



Thursday in a moving essay for The New York T: --- ------



#### **Prince Charles'** adviser used sons to fix reputation: film

Mark Bolland let nothing stand in his way to repair the Prince of Wales' sullied image claims BBC



Harris Wittels, exec of 'Parks and Recreation,' dead:

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Harris Wittels, an executive producer and longtime writer of "Parks and



..... Jay Z love child? Rapper facing paternity suit

A21-year-old aspiring rapper was identified in court papers as the possible son of megastar -----

Krysta Rodriguez of 'Smash' fame reveals breast cancer

Krysta Rodriguez, from "Smash," has shared that she has been battling breast cancer and opened









report

Iron Maiden vocalist **Bruce Dickinson** diagnosed with cancer

Bruce Dickinson, vocalist of heavy metal band Iron Maiden, has been

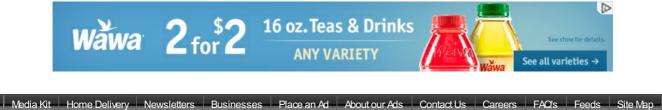
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