

## Document Citation

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## Beyond Therapy

(COLOR)

### Play adaptation misfires.

A New World Pictures release of a Roger Berlind production of a Sandcastle 5 film. Produced by Steven M. Haft. Executive producer, Roger Berlind. Directed by Robert Altman. Stars Julie Hagerty, Jeff Goldblum, Glenda Jackson, Tom Conti, Christopher Guest. Screenplay, Christopher Durang, Altman, based on Durang's play; camera (color), Pierre Mignot; supervising editor, Steve Dunn; editor, Jennifer Augé; music, Gabriel Yared; production design, Stephen Altman; art direction, Annie Sénéchal; costume design, John Hay; sound, Philippe Lioret, Daniel Belanger; assistant director, Yann Gilbert; associate producer, Scott Bushnell. Reviewed at the U.S. Film Festival, Park City, Jan. 24, 1987. (MPAA Rating: R.) Running time: 93 MINS.

Prudence	.....	Julie Hagerty
Bruce	.....	Jeff Goldblum
Charlotte	.....	Glenda Jackson
Stuart	.....	Tom Conti
Bob	.....	Christopher Guest
Zizi	.....	Geneviève Page
Andrew	.....	Cris Campion
Cindy	.....	Sandrine Dumas

**Park City, Utah** — "Beyond Therapy" is a mediocre film version of Christopher Durang's mediocre play. The difference is that this comedy somehow won a good measure of popular success onstage, whereas the screen version is headed nowhere.

Set in New York but lensed — with distracting obviousness — in Paris, farce about young singles and their shrinks already seems out of date in its attitudes and concerns. Jeff Goldblum plays a bisexual fellow who lives with a man but keeps meeting nervously neurotic Julie Hagerty, no matter what personal ad he places in New York magazine.

The big jokes come when Goldblum brings Hagerty home for dinner while his b.f., Christopher Guest, is still hanging around and when it turns out that the duo's respective psychiatrists, Glenda

### Original Play

A Warner Theater Prods., Claire Nichtern, FDM Productions, Francois de Menil & Harris Maslansky presentation of a play in two acts (nine scenes), by Christopher Durang. Staged by John Madden; scenery, Andrew Jackness; costumes, Jennifer von Mayrhauser; lighting, Paul Gallo; musical arrangements, Jack Feldman. Stars John Lithgow, Dianne Wiest; features Peter Michael Goetz, Kate McGregor-Stewart, Jack Gilpin, David Pierce. General management, Tyler Gatchell Jr., Peter Neufeld; publicity, Jeffrey Richards Assoc.; stage managers, Craig Jacobs, Trey Hunt. Opened May 26, 1982, at the Brooks Atkinson Theater, N.Y.; \$22.50 weeknights, \$25 weekend nights.

Bruce	.....	John Lithgow
Prudence	.....	Dianne Wiest
Stuart	.....	Peter Michael Goetz
Charlotte	.....	Kate McGregor-Stewart
Bob	.....	Jack Gilpin
Andrew	.....	David Pierce

Jackson and Tom Conti, are themselves involved.

A small handful of Durang's one-liners still get laughs, but director Robert Altman has soured the already threadbare proceedings to such an extent that, with the possible exception of the delightfully dizzy Hagerty, it is not even a pleasure to watch the wonderful actors, assembled here.

This is the comedy of frustration and irritation pushed to an obnoxious and wearying degree.

Paris shooting has resulted in any number of wrong details, and all the foreign accents and French dialog from secondary actors make this a perfect cast for a picture about the Tower of Babel.

In all events, this would seem to be a judicious moment for Altman to move out of his play adaptations phase, or at least to start selecting better works to spend his time on. —Cart.