

**SOUR GRAPES**  
**--A Critical Review of the Market Community**

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**Week of June 10, 2007**  
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Film Review of:  
***Harold and Maude***  
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**HAROLD AND MAUDE**

***A film by Hal Ashby, written by Colin Higgins, soundtrack by Cat Stevens***

***Review by Paul Lambrecht***

This movie moves between the two bookends of Harold's apparent suicides. Throughout the film he is experimenting with his own death, only to find a reason to live in the demise of his much older lover. This is the delightfully fucked up story of a March-December relationship between Harold and Maude, played by Bud Cort and Ruth Gordon.

Harold seems to be in the liminal phase between high school and college and is in no hurry to get on with his life, in fact it seems he can't avoid thinking about how to end it. Maude is vivacious, almost 80, non-conformist, perhaps lecherous.

Periodically punctuated by Cat Stevens' pretty ditties, enlivened by thoughtful and well-written, if sometimes scarcely audible dialogue, this film explores themes of life, death, and love, and makes a shocking relationship between a young man and a very old woman believable through excellent acting performances, and beautiful through character development and camerawork.