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Dailies: Mr. Bean's Holiday Bethel Swift

In his second film, Mr. Bean (Rowan Atkinson) talks much more than is characteristic of his television or previous film personality, but somehow still manages to communicate very little. Only Mr. Bean could be mistaken for a Spanish-speaking Russian, make a good impression on an actress while crashing the set of her latest project, be the cause of a national police hunt and the beneficiary of a police escort—and still manage to pop in at the Cannes International Film Festival.

A series of rather unfortunate, this-could-only-happen-to Mr. Bean events leads to our hero being separated from most of his personal belongings and stranded far from the beach where he longs to be. And so, Mr. Bean begins his train, run, bike and hitchhike in a trek across France, taking the stereotype of a self-centered tourist to new and dangerous lows.

Mr. Bean's holiday adventures are as varied as the many expressions he contorts his facial features into throughout the film. In typical absentminded form, he records footage of his misadventures, even when not trying to and gives viewers a Bean's-eye-view of France. A young Russian friend rounds out the plot and makes the film heartwarming as well as humorous.

There is absolutely nothing crass or offensive in this film and the comedy is of a brilliant, unstrained quality that is rare and encouraging to see. There's even a lesson of sorts, where Mr. Bean realizes he can, on occasion, work with other members of the human race (as opposed to just using them) to achieve a desired result.

Mr. Bean's Holiday is a high-stepping, lip syncing, chicken chasing, outhouse-smashing good time that will have you clapping your feet when the credits roll.

