

## Limitless: Put a lid on it

The new film “Limitless” starring Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro was last week’s number one movie in America. Perhaps that says more about the audience than the film. The premise deals with the concept of human beings not using the full potential of their brains and then a magical way of doing so. This is a desire certainly understood by the majority of people. It would be nice to recall everything you had ever seen and then turn that information into financial and social gain, however the film feels like a movie constructed around an idea that sounded good at the time. Frankly, the film is a bit silly and doesn’t utilize the great talent of Robert De Niro whatsoever. He plays one of the richest men in America who hires the newly “limitless” Bradley Cooper character. De Niro’s character ‘Carl Van Loon’ hits a plateau, staying there for the duration of the film. He is a one dimensional antagonist, common of movies that don’t take the time to explore the motives of their characters. There hasn’t been a truly genius performance from De Niro since 1995’s “Casino” directed Martin Scorsese, though he is capable. Actors, even great ones, reach a point where they are unable to play the roles they once did, either not looking the part anymore, or mellowing-out as people, losing the intensity prevalent in enduring roles. Bradley Cooper is sufficient as ‘Eddie Morra,’ able to be snarky and charming, playing both incarnations of his character well. Surprisingly, his acting range is vast and roles which challenge him more can be looked forward to in the future. Limitless is driven mostly by its concept and not its characters, leaving it feeling like a gimmick and it just seems to be a victim of the modern movie crutch - fast editing and stylistic filmmaking. It’s a film on overdrive, never expanding upon its idea, but pandering to it, keeping the film small and banking on its golden egg: a cool “what if?”

Comic books use alternate universes all the time to show different incarnations of the characters, in fact the entire art form relies on ideas that would usually be thought of as ludicrous, but they take the time to build their stories in such a way that they become universally understandable, either on an emotional or intellectual level, and it makes all the fights and gadgets and silliness the icing on the cake, rather than the cake itself.