

weekend at bernie's two

Weekend at Bernie's Two is a cult classic comedy film that continues the quirky and dark humor established by its predecessor. Released in 1989, this sequel expands on the outrageous premise of the first movie, taking viewers on a bizarre adventure involving deception, supernatural elements, and zany antics. Though often overlooked in mainstream film discussions, *Weekend at Bernie's Two* has garnered a dedicated fan base that appreciates its over-the-top humor and unique storyline. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore the film's plot, characters, themes, production background, and its place within the comedy genre.

Overview of Weekend at Bernie's Two

Plot Summary

Weekend at Bernie's Two picks up shortly after the events of the first film, centering on Larry and Richard, two young men who find themselves still entangled in the chaos surrounding their deceased boss, Bernie Lomax. The story kicks off with the duo attempting to enjoy their lives after Bernie's death, only to discover that Bernie's corpse is still pivotal to their plans.

The core plot revolves around their quest to bring Bernie back to life, driven by the desire to claim a significant inheritance. To accomplish this, they travel to the Caribbean, where they believe a voodoo priest might have the means to resurrect Bernie. However, their plans go awry when they realize that Bernie's body possesses a mysterious, supernatural energy that keeps him animated—albeit in a zombie-like state.

The film's climax involves a series of slapstick sequences, wild chases, and supernatural mishaps as Larry and Richard attempt to control Bernie's reanimated body, all while avoiding police and rival gangsters who are after the same treasure.

Main Characters

- **Larry and Richard:** The duo of hapless and naive young men who serve as the film's protagonists. Their antics and schemes drive much of the film's humor.
- **Bernie Lomax:** The deceased ex-boss whose body becomes the central "character" of the film. His reanimated corpse leads to countless comedic moments.
- **Voodoo Priest:** A mystical character who claims to have the power to resurrect the dead, setting the stage for supernatural chaos.
- **Antagonists:** Various gangsters and police officers who are in pursuit of the treasure and are continually thwarted by Bernie's zombie antics.

The Unique Humor and Style of the Film

Dark Comedy and Slapstick

Weekend at Bernie's Two employs a mix of dark comedy and slapstick humor. The idea of a dead man being manipulated and reanimated lends itself to absurd situations, physical comedy, and visual gags. The film's humor often hinges on Bernie's body performing unexpected actions, much to the amusement or horror of the characters and audience alike.

Supernatural Elements

Unlike the first film, which was grounded more in physical humor and deception, the sequel introduces supernatural elements, specifically voodoo magic. This shift opens the door to more bizarre and unpredictable scenes, such as Bernie's body moving on its own or reacting to mystical forces, adding a surreal layer to the comedy.

Critique of Greed and Deception

The film satirizes greed and the lengths people will go to for money. Larry and Richard's obsession with the inheritance leads them into increasingly ridiculous situations, highlighting how greed can cloud judgment and morality. The film uses humor to critique these human flaws while delivering entertaining chaos.

Production and Reception

Development and Cast

The sequel was directed by Stanley Goldstein, who aimed to replicate the success of the original with a more exaggerated and supernatural approach. The cast primarily included the original actors, with Andrew McCarthy and Jonathan Silverman reprising their roles as Larry and Richard. Interestingly, Bernie Lomax was portrayed by Terry Kiser in the first film; in the sequel, his body is controlled by various actors, with some scenes using body doubles for Bernie's reanimated form.

Reception and Legacy

Weekend at Bernie's Two received mixed reviews from critics, with many pointing out its reliance on slapstick and supernatural tropes. While it was not a critical darling, the film found a niche audience that appreciated its

campy humor and outlandish premise. Over the years, it has become a cult favorite among fans of dark comedies and absurdist humor.

Its commercial performance was modest, grossing less than the original but still earning a following through home video and cable broadcasts. Today, it's often regarded as a humorous, if flawed, sequel that embraces its ridiculous premise wholeheartedly.

Themes and Cultural Impact

Themes Explored

- Greed and Morality: The film satirizes the pursuit of wealth at any cost, showcasing characters who are willing to manipulate death and the supernatural to achieve their goals.
- Supernatural Comedy: It blends horror tropes with humor, reflecting a trend in late 80s and early 90s comedies to experiment with supernatural elements.
- Absurdity of Human Behavior: The film exaggerates human greed, stupidity, and desperation, turning these traits into comedic moments.

Cultural Impact and Influence

While not as influential as the original *Weekend at Bernie's*, the sequel has contributed to the cult status of the franchise. Its blend of supernatural comedy and slapstick has inspired similar films and parodies, and Bernie's reanimated corpse remains an iconic symbol of over-the-top humor.

The film's legacy is also evident in its continued popularity on streaming platforms, where new generations discover its campy charm. It has cemented its place as a quintessential example of late 80s/early 90s absurd comedy.

Conclusion: Why Watch Weekend at Bernie's Two?

Weekend at Bernie's Two offers a wild ride for fans of offbeat humor and supernatural comedy. Its outrageous premise, combined with slapstick antics and supernatural twists, makes it a unique entry in the comedy film genre. Whether you're a longtime fan or a newcomer curious about its cult status, the film's unrelenting absurdity guarantees entertainment.

While it may not be a cinematic masterpiece, its charm lies in its unapologetic silliness and willingness to push the boundaries of conventional comedy. For those looking to indulge in a fun, chaotic, and bizarre film experience, *Weekend at Bernie's Two* is a memorable choice that continues to entertain audiences decades after its release.

Key Takeaways:

- The film features a mix of dark humor, slapstick, and supernatural elements.
- It explores themes of greed, morality, and absurdity.
- Despite mixed reviews, it remains a cult classic with enduring popularity.
- Its outrageous premise makes it a must-watch for fans of quirky comedies.

Whether you're revisiting the film or discovering it anew, *Weekend at Bernie's Two* remains a testament to the creativity and craziness of late 20th-century comedy cinema.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the plot of 'Weekend at Bernie's Two'?

'Weekend at Bernie's Two' follows Larry and Richard as they attempt to revive Bernie with voodoo magic after his death, leading to humorous and chaotic situations.

Is 'Weekend at Bernie's Two' a sequel, and how does it connect to the original?

Yes, it is the sequel to 'Weekend at Bernie's' (1989), continuing the story of Larry and Richard as they deal with Bernie's corpse in new comedic adventures.

Who are the main characters in 'Weekend at Bernie's Two'?

The main characters are Larry, Richard, and Bernie Lomax, whose corpse becomes the central figure of the film's humor.

Was 'Weekend at Bernie's Two' well-received by audiences and critics?

The film received mixed to negative reviews from critics but has gained a cult following among fans of the original comedy.

Where was 'Weekend at Bernie's Two' filmed?

The movie was primarily filmed in the Bahamas, taking advantage of its tropical scenery for the comedic setting.

Are there any notable cameos or appearances in

'Weekend at Bernie's Two'?

The film features minor appearances by actors reprising their roles from the original, but no major celebrity cameos are noted.

How does 'Weekend at Bernie's Two' compare to the original in terms of humor and storyline?

While retaining the slapstick and absurd humor of the first film, the sequel is generally considered less successful and more farfetched in its storyline.

Is 'Weekend at Bernie's Two' available on streaming platforms?

Yes, it is available on various streaming platforms and digital rental services for viewers interested in the comedy sequel.

Additional Resources

Weekend at Bernie's Two: A Nostalgic Dive into the Sequel's Charm and Flaws

Introduction: Revisiting a Cult Classic's Sequel

When discussing iconic comedies of the 1980s and early 90s, *Weekend at Bernie's* stands out as a quintessential example of absurd humor blended with slapstick comedy. Its premise—two young men trying to pretend their deceased boss is alive for their own benefit—resonated with audiences for its outrageousness and comedic timing. Yet, as with many successful comedies, a sequel was inevitable. Enter *Weekend at Bernie's Two*, a film that attempts to recapture the original's magic but ends up straddling the line between homage and misstep.

In this comprehensive review, we analyze *Weekend at Bernie's Two* from multiple perspectives—its plot, humor, performances, production value, reception, and overall legacy—aiming to provide a detailed, balanced view that helps both nostalgic fans and newcomers appreciate what the film offers.

Overview of *Weekend at Bernie's Two*

Release and Context:

Released in 1993, *Weekend at Bernie's Two* came three years after the cult hit original. It was directed by Robert Klane, who also co-wrote the screenplay, and stars Andrew McCarthy and Jonathan Silverman reprising their roles as Larry and Richard. The film was produced on a modest budget and aimed to

revive the humor and themes of the first film, albeit with a different tone and narrative focus.

Premise:

The story picks up shortly after the events of the original. Larry and Richard, now living in Miami, are still haunted by the memory of Bernie Lomax's death and their involvement in covering it up. Their attempt to forget the past is interrupted when they encounter a mysterious voodoo doll that allows Bernie's corpse to be reanimated temporarily, setting the stage for chaos and comedic misadventures.

Plot Analysis: A Disjointed Narrative

Summary of the Plot:

The film's plot is deliberately absurd, relying heavily on slapstick and visual gags. After discovering a voodoo doll, Larry and Richard find themselves able to bring Bernie back to life, but only for a limited time—during which Bernie's corpse is animated, able to walk, talk, and even dance. The duo's goal becomes navigating the chaos this unleashes, while also trying to recover a stolen fortune and evade various villains.

Narrative Strengths:

- The core concept remains inventive in its absurdity, with the reanimated Bernie serving as a comedic centerpiece.
- The film attempts to explore themes of guilt, redemption, and friendship, albeit through a comedic lens.

Narrative Flaws:

- The plot feels disjointed and episodic, lacking the tightness of the original film.
- Many gags are stretched thin or rely on recycled jokes from the first movie, diminishing their impact.
- The villain subplot feels tacked on and unnecessary, detracting from the main comedic thread.

Overall Impression:

While the premise is undeniably humorous, the execution suffers from a lack of cohesive storytelling. The narrative often feels secondary to the visual gags and slapstick routines, which may satisfy fans of physical comedy but leave others yearning for more depth.

Humor and Comedy: An Examination of Style and Effectiveness

Humor Style:

Weekend at Bernie's Two leans heavily into slapstick, visual gags, and absurd scenarios. Bernie's reanimated body becomes a vehicle for comedic set pieces—dancing, falling, and physical comedy that pays homage to silent film

traditions.

Strengths:

- Creative visual gags involving Bernie's corpse—such as him sitting in a hot tub or riding a skateboard—are inventive and memorable.
- The physicality of the humor can elicit genuine laughs, especially from audiences who appreciate slapstick.

Weaknesses:

- The humor can feel repetitive or juvenile at times, relying on the novelty of Bernie's reanimation rather than clever writing.
- Some jokes are dated or culturally insensitive by modern standards, which may hinder their long-term appeal.
- The film's tone oscillates between slapstick chaos and attempts at more serious moments, resulting in tonal inconsistency.

Audience Reception:

Fans of the first film's zany humor often find *Weekend at Bernie's Two* amusing, though critics and casual viewers may see it as a pale imitation that doesn't fully capture the charm of the original.

Performances and Character Development

Main Cast:

- Andrew McCarthy (Larry) and Jonathan Silverman (Richard):
The leads reprise their roles with a similar comedic style, though their performances are somewhat subdued compared to the original. Their chemistry remains intact, but the material limits their comedic range.

- Bernie Lomax (dead boss):
The reanimated Bernie, played by Terry Kiser through CGI and practical effects, is the centerpiece. The film relies heavily on visual effects to bring Bernie to life, with mixed results—some scenes are amusing, others less convincing.

Supporting Characters:

The new characters, including villains and love interests, serve mainly as plot devices or sources of slapstick humor. Their performances vary from over-the-top to uninspired, lacking the memorable qualities of the original film's supporting cast.

Character Depth:

Overall, *Weekend at Bernie's Two* offers minimal character development. The focus remains on the comedy setup rather than exploring character arcs or emotional stakes.

Production Values: Visuals, Effects, and Setting

Visual Effects:

One of the film's most notable features is its use of early 90s CGI and practical effects to animate Bernie's corpse. While ambitious for its time, the effects often appear dated and inconsistent, sometimes detracting from the humor.

Setting and Cinematography:

Set largely in Miami, the vibrant locations add a lively backdrop to the chaos. The cinematography is functional but uninspired, emphasizing slapstick scenes over atmospheric depth.

Music and Sound:

The soundtrack features a mix of late 80s and early 90s pop tunes, complementing the film's energetic tone. Sound effects enhance slapstick moments but lack subtlety.

Critical Reception and Audience Legacy

Initial Reception:

Weekend at Bernie's Two was met with mixed reviews upon release. Critics often criticized it for being a lazy rehash of the original, with some praising its inventive gags but many condemning its lack of originality and coherence.

Audience Feedback:

Among fans of the original, the sequel retains a nostalgic appeal, especially for its over-the-top humor and memorable set pieces. However, many viewers find it inferior to the first film, citing weaker storylines and less inspired comedy.

Legacy and Cultural Impact:

Over the years, Weekend at Bernie's Two has achieved a cult status as a "so-bad-it's-good" film, loved for its campiness and absurdity. It serves as a reminder of early 90s comedy's penchant for outrageous scenarios.

Final Verdict: Should You Watch Weekend at Bernie's Two?

Pros:

- Inventive slapstick and visual gags involving Bernie's reanimated corpse.
- Nostalgic charm for fans of the original.
- Lighthearted, silly entertainment suitable for comedy enthusiasts.

Cons:

- Jarring tonal shifts and a weak narrative.
- Effects that haven't aged well.
- Limited character development and recycled humor.

Overall Rating:

Weekend at Bernie's Two is best viewed as a cult classic curiosity—an amusing, if flawed, sequel that offers plenty of laugh-out-loud moments for fans of slapstick and absurd humor. It's not a film that will challenge or redefine comedy, but it's worth a watch for those seeking a nostalgic trip or an example of early 90s comedy's boldness.

Conclusion: A Sequel That Embraces Its Bizarre Roots

In the end, Weekend at Bernie's Two embodies the spirit of unrestrained absurdity that made the original a cult hit. While it falls short in storytelling and production quality compared to its predecessor, it remains a memorable piece of the comedy puzzle—an homage to the art of slapstick, a testament to the era's experimental approach to humor, and a reminder that sometimes, the most bizarre premises can still entertain.

For fans of slapstick, visual comedy, or just curious about how far a silly idea can go, Weekend at Bernie's Two offers a lighthearted, if imperfect, journey into the realm of the ridiculous. Just remember: the key to appreciating this film is embracing its campy, over-the-top spirit—and perhaps, enjoying it with a healthy dose of nostalgia.

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