

HORRIBLE BOSSES

**A New Line Cinema Presentation
A Rat Entertainment Production
Directed by Seth Gordon**

Film reviewed by Franco P. Visser

Now if ever there was a film that I thoroughly enjoyed for many reasons, some a bit less savoury, it was this film, *Horrible Bosses*. Nick Hendricks (played by Jason Bateman), Kurt Buckman (played by Jason Sudeikis) and Dale Arbus (played by the very funny Charlie Day) are three ordinary guys with ordinary jobs, although one hallmark about their occupations that they share is that they all three have bosses from hell.

Nick is an ambitious worker at Comnidyne, a financial institution with David Harken (played by Kevin Spacey) as his boss. Just as Nick is expecting a raise and a promotion, Dave snatches it away and takes the title of Senior Vice-President and remuneration for himself. In addition Dave is an absolute narcissist and he gives Nick endless trouble in the process. Dale is a dentist technician working for the sex-crazed nymphomaniac Dr. Julia Harris (played by Jennifer Aniston) who does everything in her power to land Dale in the sack and thereby cause trouble between Dale and his fiancée Stacy (played by Lindsay Sloane). Kurt, who is an account manager at a chemical company, has a chemical dependant for a boss by the name of Bobby Pellit (played by Colin Farrell) who takes over the company from his father Jack Pellit (played by Donald Sutherland), a sweet natured and good guy who suddenly dies of a heart attack. Bobby is extremely jealous of the relationship that Kurt had with his father and he targets him in all sorts of ways in addition to spending the company's money on his drug and sex habits.

Life soon gets very difficult and tricky for Nick, Kurt and Dale as a result of their bosses, and it is when they sit together in a bar one night to share their woes that a plan is hatched to permanently get rid of their awful superiors. The threesome travel to a seedy neighbourhood and attempt to find a hit man that can assist them in their endeavour. They meet up with a hustling ex-convict, whom I will preferably refer to as Mr. Jones (played by Jamie Foxx), from whom they accept some dubious advice for a large amount of money. Mr. Jones acts as the three friends' 'murder consultant' with very interesting and twisted consequences. The three's naivety and lack of experience in the more illegal side of life causes moments of sheer hilarity and humour as the storyline develops. What happens to the three and how the process unfolds I will leave up to you to discover, but believe me it is worth every moment of viewing.

What makes this film especially entertaining is the manner in which it addresses the time-old conundrum that is the



phenomenon of employer-employee relations. I am sure that there are many out there who would love to see their bosses get their comeuppance in a variety of ways, but due to the power differential and societal conventions are too afraid to give any airtime to their thoughts. It should be said however that the correct and preferred avenue for addressing any issues that one might be experiencing with one's boss should still follow within the legal and constructive realm, and at no stage am I suggesting that offing your boss should take top priority on your to-do list. As usual Hollywood provides an alternative fantasy, and I must admit that it is really hilarious. *Horrible Bosses* provides the viewer with a fresh 'spin' on the issue of office politics and how to maybe deal with it....or not.

The film highlights how difficult it might be for some to work under a boss from hell. Bosses and superiors often times forget about the amount of power that they wield over the lives of their employees. Not all bosses are the devil themselves, and there are many who are able to handle the power that they are given over others, and who can provide a supportive, nurturing and growth-promoting work environment to their workers. I would wholeheartedly recommend *Horrible Bosses*, and I would hope that you can share in the humour and light-heartedness with me that I am sure this film's producers intended when they made it. Office politics remain a sore point for many of us, and we are all too aware that it can make or break one's career and the enjoyment thereof. Through this film one can have a bit of fun in plotting possible plans towards the resolution of tricky work interactions with very difficult superiors.

With the Golden Globes just presented and the Oscars already waiting in the wings, the upcoming film season promises to be a far better one than the one that we have been experiencing recently. In my experience it was rather difficult to make sense of all the sci-fi thrillers and other strange movies that came out of the Hollywood production line, and as a movie reviewer I really struggled of late to find 'the perfect film' for review in the Journal. I believe that this might be about to change as some brilliantly made films are about to reach our shores – *The Iron Lady* (let's hope she gets the Oscar this time round!), *Midnight in Paris*, *The Artist*, *The Adventures of Tintin*, *The Descendants* and *My week with Marilyn* to name but a few. Be sure to take time out in what will surely be another hectic and overfilled year and escape to the adventure, fantasy and magic that one can still find at the movies!