

# Wedding Crashers invades theaters, delivers heaps of laughs



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This month's *Wedding Crashers*, starring Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn, is a raucously hilarious comedy that is part frat boy humor, part slapstick and part gooey romance. Though some of the jokes are clichéd and tacked-on and the plot falters a bit – especially toward the end – the superb teaming of Wilson and Vaughn more than propels the film past its few shortcomings.

Wilson and Vaughn star as John Beckwith and Jeremy Klein, two buddies who make it a point every year to crash weddings and search for women overcome with romantic emotions. They sweet talk these women, share a few dances and eventually take them to bed.

More of a second profession than a hobby to them, John and Jeremy have the art of wedding crashing down to a science. They research the families of the bride and groom so they know to say with whom they're related. They

come equipped with fictional back stories about their jobs, hometowns and their time with the Peace Corps ("We lost a lot of good men out there.") They dot their cheeks with a few eye drop "tears," lay on the sweetness and are able to seal the deal every time.

Just as John begins to question the irresponsibility of it all, Jeremy comes to him with the mother of all crashes: the wedding of one of the daughters of the Secretary of the Treasury (Christopher Walken). Once there, John meets and falls for the Secretary's other daughter Claire (Rachel McAdams), while Jeremy talks third daughter Gloria (Isla Fisher) into a tryst on the beach. Gloria turns out to be a tad clingy and invites the two men to her father's house on the lake for the weekend.

At this point in the film, some of the weaker jokes are trotted out, but Vaughn's relationship with the slightly dysfunctional Gloria provides some of the funniest moments to even things out. It turns out, most of the Secretary's family is somewhat odd as well: the foul-mouthed grandmother, the tortured-artist son, the promiscuous wife (Jane Seymour) – all of these characters provide the occasional chuckle, but it's the mile-a-minute Vaughn who really shines here. Listening to Vaughn, you get the feeling the screenwriter just gave him vague dialogue descriptions like "talk about why dating is awkward" and "rant about maple syrup" and let him go with it. What the viewer gets is great improv given via an even better delivery.

As the film progresses, it detours into John's quest to win the love of Claire, even after her boyfriend exposes him as a fraud. It's here where the movie slows down and jumps around a bit too much. John becomes a depressed sad sack, especially after hearing about two upcoming weddings, Claire's and Jeremy's.

He meets up with Chaz (a hilarious Will Ferrell), the man who passed the rules of wedding crashing on to him and Jeremy, but now crashes funerals ("grief is nature's most powerful aphrodisiac."), and realizes the life of crashing is not the life for him. This all leads up to a predictable but somewhat sweet climax at the altar.

Again, the leading men of this film steal the show and make it worth the price of admission just to see what Vaughn will say next.

This film comes with a well-earned R rating for language and nudity and is definitely not for children.



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