

20 Years of Buddy Movies: the High Points and Low Points

1981— Diane Keaton and Michael Keaton star in “Hospital Gowns,” Alan Alda’s directing debut. Sensitive men everywhere begin to populate sushi bars.

1983— A young Charlie Sheen and a younger Corey Feldman star in this unreleased Rob Reiner turkey about two retarded brothers who go into business painting the outside of dumpsters.

1985— A then-hot Michael J. Fox and still-unknown Kyle MacLachlan play squabbling accountants in Robert Altman’s 7-hour adaptation of some of his favorite half-remembered Isaac Bashevis Singer stories, “Pret à Paté.”

1986— Nick Nolte and Gary Busey attempted to give the action movie genre a kick in the pants in “Fatal Bo-Boo,” but the critics were vicious, and neither actor is known to have survived.

1988— Peter Weller attempted to cash in on his “RoboCop” success by producing this bomb in which he starred opposite Ed Harris as tough Marines assigned to do some seemingly-impossible things. A must for those interested in hair-lines.

1990— “The Color of Glass” was the little-known debut of John Leguizamo, who starred opposite Bronson Pinchot in Pinchot’s first film after “Perfect Strangers.” Leguizamo’s sarcastic pimp was the perfect foil for Pinchot’s droll cab driver. A wacky-accent-laden laugh riot.

1992— Merchant-Ivory epic sagas go one step too far when Jeff Daniels, William Hurt, Jeff Bridges, and Kurt Russell are cast as the four brothers in Chekov’s “The Dishwasher.” People everywhere give up trying to tell the characters apart at the two-hour mark, and go to sleep.

1994— As Tarantino-fever swept the land, women found it harder and harder to get cast. One ray of light was “Chicks With Dicks,” about the lives of women married to private eyes, starring Lori Petty and Heather Graham. Their chemistry is often credited as the inspiration behind “Romy and Michelle,” and the strong feminist statement made by this film is, on hindsight, only broken by the fact the leads were naked for the duration of the movie.

1996— “Jo Mama”: Disney and Mtv combined resources to produce this Pauly Shore/Sinbad vehicle about anal sex. All were lost in the blast.

1997— Corbin Bernsen and David Caruso were teamed up for this ill-fated remake of “Ben Hur,” directed by Joel Schumacher from a script by Joe Esterhauz. Caveat emptor indeed.

1998— Ralph Fiennes and Liam Neeson star in the sprawling historical romance about post-apocalyptic Tanzania, “No English Patience.” Winner of 291 Academy Awards, including Longest Film and Best Key Grip, Fiennes and Neeson completed their progress toward becoming completely indistinguishable.

1999— Super-elasticmen Jackie Chan and Jim Carrey blow everyone’s minds as a Hong Kong secret agent and his loose-cannon American sidekick in “American Spandex.” Physical comedy, action, and everything redefined before your eyes. A high-water-mark for the genre.

2000— Comic geniuses turn serious in “Rain Man II: K-Mart Sucks,” starring Adam Sandler in Tom Cruise’s original role, and Rowan Atkinson as the inexplicably foul-mouthed Raymond. The two actors went on to become the Woody Harrelson/Wesley Snipes of the new millennium.