

Film Reviews

Hot Rod - PG-13




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Awesomely dumb slapstick. Teens and adults only.

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Rating: PG-13 for crude humor, language, some comic drug-related and violent content. **Studio:** [Paramount Pictures](#) **Directed By:** [Akiva Schaffer](#)
Cast: [Chris Parnell](#), [Andy Samberg](#) **Running Time:** 88 minutes **Release Date:** 08/02/2007 **Genre:** [Comedy](#)

Common Sense Note

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Parents need to know that, like *Jackass* and *The Dudesons* before it, *Hot Rod* is a nearly nonstop cavalcade of stunts, pratfalls, and injuries. However, Rod never gets seriously hurt, and teens may be tempted to attempt several of the stunts. The movie also talks about the death of Rod's father and the animosity his stepfather holds for him, which may be difficult for teens who have been through the same. There's also lots of profanity, crude humor, and drug-related jokes.

Families can talk about the appeal of dangerous stunts like those Rod attempts and at which he usually fails. Unlike shows like *Jackass*, this is fictional, and teens don't see the physical effects these stunts have on the people who attempt them. Why are the stunts, in particular, and violence, in general, funny in this movie?

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Common Sense Review

Reviewed By: [Heather Boerner](#)

If [Jackass](#), [Napoleon Dynamite](#), and the [Saturday Night Live](#) viral video "Lazy Sunday" had a love child, HOT ROD would be it, in all its dumb, dirty glory. And like any completely gratifying summer comedy, *Hot Rod* is far better than the sum of its parts.

Somehow Andy Samberg, the co-writer and *SNL* castmember, manages to soften up the extreme violence of *Jackass*, capture the doofus anti-hero of *Napoleon Dynamite*, and liberally apply the nerdy awesomeness of "Lazy Sunday." There's a reason he's an "Interweb" superstar.

And now he's on the silver screen, starring as Rod, the adult man-child who still lives in his mom's house, walks around with his buds from school, and plans his next sweet stunt. See, Rod believes himself to be the son of a deceased stuntman who used to test stunts for Evel Knievel. All he wants is to live up to his dad's legacy and kick his gnarled stepfather, Frank's ([Deadwood's](#) Ian McShane), butt. When Frank falls ill, Rod can't accept that Frank might die without getting the chance to win one fight against him. So he sets about to earn the \$50,000 Frank needs for surgery so he can live long enough to lose to Rod's mighty assault.

[Terms of Endearment](#) it's not. But that's the totally awesome power of *Hot Rod*. There are so many fun references here, from the power ballad while Rod "punch-dances" out his rage at Frank's illness to the synchronized dancing Dave (Bill Hader) and Rico (Danny R. McBride) do in the convenience store parking lot to "Two of Hearts." Dave orders his food as "Voltron" so the waitress will have to say it over the loud speaker. Rod summons the power of his totem animals

(complete with inset images of foxes, dolphins, and housecats). Come on. Awesomeness abounds.

It's even somewhat smart. Sure, there's the overly ironic moments that just get self-referential -- like when Barry Pasternack (fellow SNL cast member Chris Parnell) notes the conveniently tidy sum Rod needs to raise for Frank's surgery -- but there are also many clever moments. When Rod sees the crowd's reaction to his awesome stunts, you can almost see how stars of those [YouTube](#) videos must feel when they realize people aren't laughing with them.

People who enjoy this movie will like *Napoleon Dynamite*, [DEBS](#), [Anchorman](#), [Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby](#), and the *Jackass* franchise -- if you're sure younger fans can really be trusted never to try their idiotic stunts at home.

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Content	CS	adults	kids
<p>Sexual Content</p> <p>Rod and Denise kiss three times. Rico recalls a dream in which the wives of wizards "all want to have sex with" him.</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<p>Violence</p> <p>Tons of comic pratfalls and failed jumps and stunts, including: a ramp fails and Rod falls directly onto the apex of the next ramp, crumpling to the ground; Rod falls down a hill Homer Simpson-style, repeatedly hitting his head and back; Rod and his stepfather have several fights involving Rhodesian fighting sticks, punches, kicking, beating and even Chinese fighting stars; Rod asks his friends to hold him under water for 40 seconds and nearly drowns; Rod plays human piñata for a child's party and several kids and his brother Kevin beat him with bats; he's hit several times by cars; he luges down the street and crashes into an RV, breaking the window; then the owner comes out and beats him severely; Rod flies off his bike and crashes badly, with bone-breaking sound effects and nearly dies. There's also a graphic joke about Dave injuring himself where a piece of metal sticks out of his temple.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<p>Language</p> <p>Lots of swearing, including "s--t," "f--k," "badass," "s--thead," "ass," "hell," "dickhole," "goddamn," and "p--y." Characters refer to their "choad" and Jonathan calls condoms "dong bags."</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<p>Message</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>Social Behavior</p> <p>Rod and friends engage in intensely unsafe stunts. Denise tells a racist joke about a taco fighting a grilled cheese sandwich. Rod's stepfather belittles him every chance he gets.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>Commercialism</p> <p>Characters mention Dr. Pepper.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco</p> <p>Rod and his buddies all drink constantly, from beer to hard alcohol. Rod goes grocery shopping and leaves with a shopping cart heaping with liquor bottles. Dave drops acid, with disastrous (and funny) results.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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