



Video/DVD Reviews

Totally Awesome - NR



II **13+**

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VH1 spoof awesome just for '80s teen film fans.

Rating: NR for not rated **Studio:** [Paramount Home Entertainment](#)
Directed By: [Neal Brennan](#) **Cast:** [Chris Kattan](#), [Mikey Day](#), [Dominique Swain](#) **Running Time:** 102 minutes **Release Date:** 11/07/2006 **Genre:** [Comedy](#)

Common Sense Note

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Parents should know that this film sarcastically encourages teens to sleep with 35-year-old men. There's some comic violence when the school's teen werewolf kills the guidance counselor. The film also presents the teen years as a time of predation: both being preyed on by bullies your own age and by lascivious adults. But overall, the film has the same message as every '80s teen movie that it spoofs: Be yourself and you'll be rewarded with the girl and popularity.

Families can talk about why these themes continue to dominate teen movies. Why are older men always so attractive to teen girls in the movies? Why do teens believe, as Charlie says, "I'm 17. My self sucks"? Is it as dangerous to be a teen as the movie portrays?

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Common Sense Review

Reviewed By: [Heather Boerner](#)

Wanna have an '80s teen movie marathon, but crappier? Condense them all into an hour and a half, sprinkle in some really horrible dance moves, and enjoy TOTALLY AWESOME, the '80s movie spoof by the channel that brought you *I Love the '80s*.

The plot is really irrelevant in this irreverent spoof, but here goes: Charlie (C. Thomas Howell look-alike Mikey Day) and Lori (Dominique Swain) move from Pittsburgh to California and are sudden thrown into a new world (cue the first season of [Beverly Hills 90210](#) moaning "Why did we have to move here anyway?"). On the first day of school -- at the school, by the way, where Bill and Ted went to school -- the David Silver-like radio DJ announces that the "cool rankings are out" and Charlie is at the bottom of the list. With him at the bottom is Billie Bunts (Nicki Clyne), who is reviled for making her own clothes and being "oily and poor." Charlie longs to impress popular, big-haired Kimberly (*Sweet Valley High's* [Brittany Daniel](#)) and replace cool-guy Kip (Joey Kern).

Meanwhile, Lori is crushed when she learns that dancing has been outlawed because some kids had a dance in a barn and their "feet came loose," killing the kids instantly. When she meets the school's former dance instructor and current janitor Gabriel (a perfectly slimy [Chris Kattan](#)), she falls in love and hatches a plan to get dancing legalized again by performing the dangerous starfire dance move after the decathlon.

If the plot sounds insane, it is. But it's not meant to be sane. It's meant to cram in as many references to '80s movies as possible. There's the [Dirty Dancing](#) dance practice scenes, with Kattan's perfect [Patrick Swayze](#) mullet. There's the fabulously snarky dance number a la *Staying Alive* (headbands and all). There's the best-friend-as-lover moments a la [Some Kind of Wonderful](#), complete with fingerless knit gloves. And of course there's the big hair and pink leather skirt ensembles with shoulder pads.

The true fabulousness of this film will probably be lost on younger generations, since they are unlikely to have the encyclopedic knowledge of the '80s celebrated in the *I Love the '80s* series of clip shows. There's a reason this movie originally aired on VH1 and not MTV. It's aimed at an older demographic.

The best you can hope for is that teens will be inspired to watch the original films. Start them with [Sixteen Candles](#), [Pretty in Pink](#), [Some Kind of Wonderful](#), and [Say Anything](#).

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Content	CS	adults	kids
<p>Sexual Content</p> <p>In a dream sequence, Charlie imagines a woman flashing her bare breasts -- within the first three minutes of the movie. There's close, sexual, and silly dancing between teenage Lori and 35-year-old Gabriel, and later Gabriel says he's had sex with her. Yamagashi is gay and is constantly naked in front of Charlie and coming on to him. There's a lot of talk about having sex, but nothing seen.</p>			
<p>Violence</p> <p>A lot of comic violence including: a teenage werewolf kills two people graphically, Charlie gets beaten up several times by the cool kids. A girl breaks her leg and you can see the bone sticking out -- the event is watched by a group of people over and over on the VCR. The coach tells his team to kill Charlie.</p>			
<p>Language</p> <p>Some salty language including "ass", "s--t," and "damn."</p>			

Message



Social Behavior

Since this film makes overt what's covert in other '80s teen movies, it's hard to blame *Totally Awesome* for its borrowed message that encourages one 35-year-old to have sex with teenage girls. Charlie also learns to be himself and encourages others to be themselves.



Commercialism



Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco

Gabriel says he takes steroids. Charlie gets drunk after being humiliated at a party.



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