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Review: 'Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel'

By [Common Sense Media](#) - Wed Dec 23, 2009 3:43pm PST [17 Comments](#) [Post a comment](#)



Amusing, silly sequel has a bit more edge than original.

See [video clips](#) from "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel."

After an onstage mishap, Dave (Jason Lee) lands in a Paris hospital, and the Chipmunks wind up under the care of his doofus cousin Toby (Zachary Levi). Going to school for the first time, brothers, Alvin, Simon, and Theodore discover girls, bullies, and peer pressure; Alvin (voiced by Justin Long) is coaxed into joining the football team, which takes him away from his singing duties.

Meanwhile, evil talent agent Ian (David Cross) returns -- having discovered all-girl chipmunk singing group The Chipettes -- and uses his same old nasty tactics to catapult the girls into the limelight. Trouble comes when Alvin's first big game falls on the same day as the big school talent show ... and The Chipettes are the main competition.

Not so much good as it is low-key, amusing, and painless, this "squeakquel" from director Betty Thomas ("The Brady Bunch Movie," "Dr. Dolittle") has enough funny one-liners and bits of physical humor to entertain both kids and parents (especially if the parents are already Chipmunk fans).

Crude humor is kept to a minimum, but Alvin's attempts at teen hipster talk may annoy parents and inspire impressionable kids to imitate him. And the Chipettes' dancing is designed to suggest many of today's pop starlets (Beyonce, Shakira, etc.) with some suggestive hip-wiggling.

But these quibbles come surprisingly infrequently. Overall, the movie doesn't try too hard for viewers' affections (it doesn't jump in your lap like a yapping puppy) and moves with speed and confidence. The songs are fun, the Chipmunks are likeable, and the movie seems to have its heart in the right place. It may inspire some giggles and unexpected smiles from the whole family.

Parents Need to Know

Parents need to know that "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" is low-key, amusing entertainment for both parents and kids, with a mix of verbal and slapstick humor and only a few crude jokes.

With the introduction of girl Chipmunk group The Chipettes comes some flirting and suggestive hip-wiggling (similar to that of sexy starletlike Beyoncé and Shakira), which -- along with the infrequent use of phrases like "junk in the trunk" -- makes this sequel a little edgier than the original. But overall the movie focuses on family, togetherness, and acceptance and deals positively with school and peer pressure.

Though the issue of body image comes up (at times, Theodore's weight is called to attention, as is that



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of his female counterpart, Eleanor), ultimately the message is one of liking yourself for who you are.

Families Can Talk About

- Families can talk about peer pressure. Why did Alvin join the football team, especially when he knew the game would conflict with the talent show? What did he hope to gain? Were the bullies really his friends?
- How does the movie approach the subject of body image? Would it be different if the characters dealing with the issue were human instead of chipmunks?
- Cousin Toby has spent a lot of time playing and mastering video games, but what good has it done him?

Studio: Twentieth Century Fox **Director:** Betty Thomas **Cast:** Jason Lee, Justin Long, Zachary Levi, Matthew Gray Gubler **Genre:** Family and Kids **Run time:** 88 minutes **Theatrical release:** 12/23/2009 **MPAA Rating:** PG **MPAA explanation:** some mild rude humor

Reviewed by Jeffrey M. Anderson.

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Posted by **Valerie** Wed Dec 23, 2009 8:40pm PST

It's called who cares.....and some people do like it so keep your bad opinion to yourself. Okay , cause if you don't like it then , that is your opinion..... Loser

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Posted by **tay-tay** Thu Dec 24, 2009 7:00am PST

this movie is goin 2 be funny

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Posted by **Zadi** Thu Dec 24, 2009 9:29am PST

yeah who cares.

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Posted by **Zadi** Thu Dec 24, 2009 9:39am PST

im with valerie on this one keep you opinion to yourself.

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Posted by **4lane@bellsouth.net** Fri Dec 25, 2009 7:02pm PST

why are you wasting peoples time with these comments. there are people with kids who would like to her from someone who has really seen this movie.

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Posted by **Jaime M** Fri Dec 25, 2009 10:49pm PST

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we took our kids to see this movie as a christmas present and even my two year old loved it. she was dancing in the aisles with the music and yelling "alvin" whenever they did in the movie. my four year old and eight year old thought the movie was GREAT and AWESOME and i felt that it was definitely decent. i would not hesitate to buy this when it comes out on dvd and i wouldn't mind seeing it again.

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Posted by **aryanakimball@rocketmail.com** Sat Dec 26, 2009 10:40am PST

i love alvin and the chipmunks soooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo much

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Posted by **Sarah** Sun Dec 27, 2009 7:34am PST

cool.but alot to read!!haha!goin' to be a fun and funny movie.

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Posted by **Sarah** Sun Dec 27, 2009 7:36am PST

i so agree on that.if you don't have anything good to say don't say nothin'.i agree on that with you valerie.goooooohhhh!!

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Posted by **Caila** Mon Dec 28, 2009 2:42pm PST

would you guys just bequite

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