



When you take one step to support local health workers, you help children survive all over the world.
Find out all the ways you can help > See Where the Good Goes™



rogerebert.com

movie reviews

Reviews | Great Movies | Answer Man | People | Commentary | Festivals | Oscars | Glossary | One-Minute Reviews | Letters | Roger Ebert's Journal | Scanners | Store

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES News Sports Business Entertainment Classifieds Columnists

search

GO Search powered by YAHOO!

register

You are not logged in.

Log in >

Subscribe to weekly newsletter >

times & tickets

Fandango Search movie showtimes and buy tickets.

about us

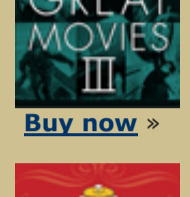
About the site >

Site FAQs >

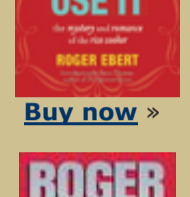
Contact us >

Email the Movie Answer Man >

on sale now



Buy now >



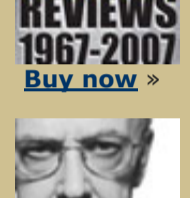
Buy now >



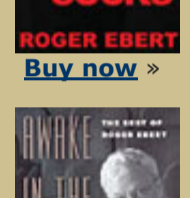
Buy now >



Buy now >



Buy now >



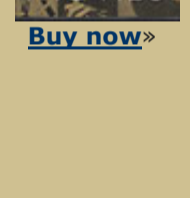
Buy now >



Buy now >



Buy now >



Buy now >

FOOTLOOSE (PG-13)

Ebert: ★★ Users: ★★ You: [Rate this movie right now](#)



Footloose

BY ROGER EBERT / October 12, 2011

There's one thing to be said for a remake of a 1984 movie that uses the original's screenplay. This 2011 version is so similar — sometimes song for song and line for line — that I was wickedly tempted to reprint my 1984 review, word for word. But That Would be Wrong. I think I could have gotten away with it, though. The movies differ in such tiny details (the hero now moves to Tennessee from Massachusetts, not Chicago) that few would have noticed.

Was there then, or is there now, a town in Tennessee or any other state in which the city council has passed a law against "dancing in public"? There may have been a brief period, soon after Elvis first began grinding his pelvis, and preachers denounced rock 'n' roll as "the devil's music." But for most young moviegoers, this plot point is going to seem so unlikely as to be bizarre.

We again get a plot in which a high school beer party leads to a fatal crash taking the lives of five teenagers. Under the influence of the Rev. Shaw Moore (Dennis Quaid), the city council bans the music. The Rev. Moore, who seems to be the only preacher in town, acts as the de facto civic moral leader. He is paranoid about his daughter, Ariel (Julianne Hough), a free spirit who attracts the attention of a local bad kid, Chuck Cranston (Patrick John Flueger).

Ren McCormack (Kenny Wormald) arrives in the hamlet of Bomont from Boston. He's got the Kevin Bacon role but not the Kevin Bacon charisma; the Rev. Shaw Moore should be able to take one look at Ren and figure he's harmless. But Ren gets arrested for playing his car radio too loud, and soon is leading a movement of the town's kids to petition the council to allow dancing — in public, anyway. This is the setup for several dance scenes where those kids seem suspiciously well-choreographed for a town where they have allegedly never danced.

Meanwhile, the loutish Chuck Cranston, who considers Ariel his girl, resents Ren because he's attracting Ariel's smiles. This Chuck is a knuckle-dragging bully who patrols in his pickup truck with a posse of sidekicks. Attention, posse members of bullies: When the local bully tools around in his pickup but makes you guys all ride back there in the truck bed, you are being disrespected. What, aren't you good enough to ride up front with Chuck?

The bad boys and girls in high school movies always have a posse, usually two or three members, who follow close behind their leader and look ominous and slack-jawed. Are they issued instructions? Are they told, "Walk a few steps behind me and look worshipful?"

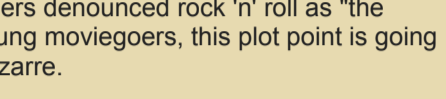
This new "Footloose" is a film without wit, humor or purpose. It sets up the town elders as old farts who hate rock 'n' roll. Does it have a clue that the Rev. Moore and all the other city council members are young enough that they grew up on rock 'n' roll? The film's message is: A bad movie, if faithfully remade, will produce another bad movie.

cast & credits

Ren Kenny Wormald
Ariel Julianne Hough
Rev. Moore Dennis Quaid
Vi Andie MacDowell
Chuck Patrick John Flueger
Willard Miles Teller
Wes Ray McKinnon

Paramount presents a film directed by Craig Brewer. Written by Dean Pitchford and Brewer, based on Pitchford's 1984 screenplay. Running time: 113 minutes. Rated PG-13 (for some teen drug and alcohol use, sexual content, violence and language).

Printer-friendly > Email this to a friend >



Find here a clear solution to your ACNE PROBLEM



only \$49.99

BEFORE AFTER Unique products from the Dead Sea

in theaters

- Marin Call ★★
- Mighty Macs ★★
- The Mill and the Cross ★★
- Norman ★★
- Paranormal Activity 3 ★
- The Skin I Live In ★★
- Texas Killing Fields ★★

more current releases >>

one-minute movie reviews

still playing

- Dolphin Tale ★★
- Amigo ★★
- Another Earth ★★
- Attack the Block ★★
- Bellflower ★★
- The Big Year ★★
- Blackthorn ★★
- Brighton Rock ★★
- The Change-Up ★★
- Chasing Madoff ★★
- Circumstance ★★
- Conan the Barbarian ★★
- Contagion ★★
- Cowboys & Aliens ★★
- Crazy, Stupid, Love ★★
- The Debt ★★
- Detective Dee and the Mystery of the Phantom Flame ★★
- The Devil's Double ★★
- Don't Be Afraid of the Dark ★★
- Drive ★★
- 50/50 ★★
- Final Destination 5 ★★
- Fireflies in the Garden ★★
- 5 Days of War ★★
- Footloose ★★
- Fright Night ★★
- The Future ★★
- George Harrison: Living in the Material World ★★
- A Good Old-Fashioned Oray ★
- The Guard ★★
- Happy Happy ★★
- The Hedgehog ★★
- The Help ★★
- Higher Ground ★★
- The Human Centipede 2 (Full Sequence) Zero stars
- The Ides of March ★★
- The Interrupters ★★
- Killer Elite ★★
- Life, Above All ★★
- A Little Help ★★
- Little Rock ★★
- Love Crime ★★
- Machine Gun Preacher ★★
- Marin Call ★★
- Mighty Macs ★★
- The Mill and the Cross ★★
- Moneyball ★★
- Mozart's Sister ★★
- Munger Road ★★
- My Afternoons With Marguerite ★★
- Mysteries of Lisbon ★★
- Norman ★★
- One Day ★★
- One Lucky Elephant ★★
- Our Idiot Brother ★★
- Paranormal Activity 3 ★★
- Phunny Business: A Black Comedy ★★
- Point Blank ★★
- Puncture ★★
- Rapt ★★
- Real Steel ★★
- Restless ★★
- Resurrect Dead: Mystery of the Toynbee Tiles ★★
- Rise of the Planet of the Apes ★★
- Road to Nowhere ★★
- The Robber ★★
- Sarah's Key ★★
- Senna ★★
- Seven Days in Utopia ★
- Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness ★★
- The Skin I Live In ★★
- Sleep Furiously ★★
- Special Treatment ★★
- Straw Dogs ★★
- Take Shelter ★★
- Texas Killing Fields ★★
- The Thing ★★
- 30 Minutes or Less ★★
- Trespass ★★
- Tucker and Dale vs. Evil ★★
- The Undeclared ★★
- Viva Rival ★★
- Warrior ★★
- The Way ★★
- Weekend ★★
- The Whistleblower ★★
- World on a Wire ★★

more current releases >>

on dvd

new on dvd

more new on dvd >>

coming on dvd

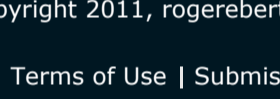
more coming on dvd >>

great movies on dvd

more great movies on dvd >>

<p>Love Indian TV? Watch It Anywhere You Like, www.WatchIndia.tv</p>
<p>Home Theater System Deals Get The Best Prices This Season! BlackFridayBuying.com</p>
<p>Helicare Supplements Helicare systemically protects against www.radiantskindclinic.com</p>
<p>DVD Players - Sale Prices Save Big on Top DVD Players. Toshiba, www.Calibex.com/DVD-Player</p>

Ads by Yahoo!



© copyright 2011, rogerebert.com

Privacy Policy | Terms of Use | Submission Guidelines

FIND FREE GED® TEST INFORMATION
YOURGED.ORG
CLICK HERE

