



Furnace Trouble?

Click Here to find your local Carrier dealer and read actual customer reviews.
CarrierChicagoland.com We service all brands

SAVE UP TO \$900 LIMITED TIME OFFER!



roger ebert.com

movie reviews

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

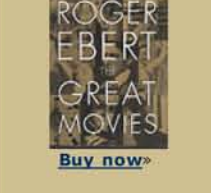
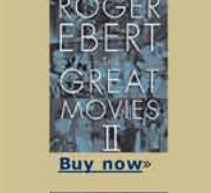
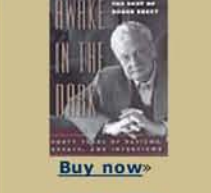
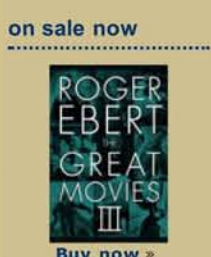
CHICAGO SUN-TIMES News Sports Business Entertainment Classifieds Columnists

search
[input]
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 »



THE MUPPETS (PG)

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



Miss Piggy.

The Muppets

BY ROGER EBERT / November 21, 2011

The Muppet franchise is revitalized with "The Muppets," a funny, wickedly self-aware musical that opens by acknowledging they've outlived their shelf life. There's some truth in that observation; this is the first Muppet movie since "Muppets From Space" (1999), and there wasn't exactly a clamor for a revival. Yet for those who grew up with the Muppets, they had lovable personalities and (shall we say?) character defects.

What's rather canny about this revival is that it sidesteps the fact that some younger viewers may not actually be very familiar with the Muppets.

Their parents will be the fans. The movie opens with the Muppets disbanded; their movies and TV shows are all in the past. They've moved on. Miss Piggy, we discover, became the editor of a Paris fashion magazine.

It's a human fan who misses them most. Jason Segal plays Gary, who not only loves the Muppets but actually lives with Walter, who has been his best pal since he was a child, even though now Gary's at least five feet taller. This friendship is a problem, as well it might be, for Gary's girlfriend Mary (Amy Adams). Walter likes Gary well enough, but feels like a displaced person. After all, he's a Muppet.

Gary, Mary and Walter take a bus trip to Hollywood, only to discover the historic Muppet Studios are abandoned and derelict. Walter discovers that a millionaire (Chris Cooper) plans to buy the studios and drill for oil. This is not preposterous; didn't they strike oil under the 20th Century-Fox ranch? The three tourists vow to raise money to save the studios, and the early appearance of Mickey Rooney in the movie should have been a tipoff of the old Rooney-Garland formula: "Hey, kids! Let's put on a show!"

Time is short. The search for the Muppet diaspora is difficult. The plan is to do a TV benefit. Since the Muppets aren't as big as they once were, human stars are also recruited to appear in the benefit. Famous bit parts are a tested element of the Muppet formula; I remember when I was all set up to interview Orson Welles on the day he was co-starring with Miss Piggy. The interview never happened. There was some problem with Miss Piggy.

The remarkable thing about the Muppets, then and now, is what distinctive personalities and presences they have. When the "The Muppet Movie," the first in the series, came out in 1979, there was astonishment that — ohmigod! — Kermit was riding a bicycle! How could a Muppet do that? Today, characters can do anything in the movies, but these Muppets are still played by Muppeteers, and they're still endearing.

cast & credits

Gary Jason Segal
Mary Amy Adams
Tex Richman Chris Cooper
Hobo Joe Zach Gallifianakis
Executive Rashida Jones

Walt Disney Studios presents a film directed by James Bobin. Written by Jason Segal and Nicholas Stoller, based on Jim Henson's Muppet characters. Running time: 98 minutes. Rated PG (for some mild rude humor).

Printer-friendly »
E-mail this to a friend »



in theaters

more current releases »

one-minute movie reviews

still playing

- Dolphin Tale ★★★
- America the Beautiful 2: The Thin Commandments ★★★
- Amigo ★★★
- Anonymous ★★★★
- Answers to Nothing ★★★
- Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey ★★★
- Bellflower ★★★
- The Big Year ★★★
- Blackthorn ★
- Boy Wonder ★★★★
- The Descendants ★★★★★
- Detective Dee and the Mystery of the Phantom Flame ★★★★★
- The Double ★★
- Drive ★★★
- Elite Squad: The Enemy Within ★★★
- 50/50 ★★★★★
- Fireflies in the Garden ★★
- Footloose ★
- Gainsbourg: A Heroic Life ★★★
- George Harrison: Living in the Material World ★★★
- Happy Feet Two ★★★
- Happy Happy ★★★
- Le Havre ★★★★★
- The Heir Apparent: Largo Winch ★★★
- Hugo ★★★★★
- The Human Centipede 2 (Full Sequence) Zero stars
- The Ides of March ★★★
- Immortals ★★
- In Time ★★★
- Into the Abyss: A Tale of Death, A Tale of Life ★★★★★
- J. Edgar ★★★★★
- Jamie and Jessie are Not Together ★★★
- Killer Elite ★★★
- Kinyarwanda ★★★★★
- The Last Rites of Joe May ★★★★★
- Letters from the Big Man ★★★★★
- The Lie ★★★
- Like Crazy ★★★
- Love Crime ★★★
- Machine Gun Preacher ★★
- Margin Call ★★★★★
- Martha Marcy May Marlene ★★★★★
- Melancholia ★★★★★
- Mighty Macs ★★
- The Mill and the Cross ★★★★★
- Moneyball ★★★★★
- Munger Road ★★★
- The Muppets ★★★
- My Afternoons With Marguerite ★★★
- My Week with Marilyn ★★★★★
- Mysteries of Lisbon ★★★★★
- Norman ★★★
- Oranges and Sunshine ★★★
- Paranormal Activity 3 ★
- Passione ★★★★★
- Puncture ★★★
- Raiders of the Lost Ark ★★★★★
- Real Steel ★★★
- Restless ★★★
- Resurrect Dead: Mystery of the Toynbee Tiles ★★★
- Revenge of the Electric Car ★★★
- The Rum Diary ★★★
- Shame ★★★★★
- The Skin I Live In ★★★
- The Son of No One ★★
- Special Treatment ★★★
- Steve Jobs: The Lost Interview ★★★
- Straw Dogs ★★★
- Take Shelter ★★★★★
- Texas Killing Fields ★★
- The Thing ★★★
- 3 ★★★
- Tower Heist ★★★
- Trespass ★★
- Tucker and Dale vs. Evil ★★★
- The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 ★★★★★
- Tyrannosaur ★★★★★
- Urbanized ★★★
- A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas ★★★
- The Way ★★★
- Weekend ★★★
- The Wise Kids ★★★
- The Women on the 6th Floor ★★★
- The World is Big and Salvation Lurks Around the Corner ★★★
- 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 »

Satellite TV
Find Top Rated Local Services Online.
ServiceCafe.com

Top5 Music Download Sites
Updated 2011 Reviews. Find the right
www.MusicDownloadServiceReviews.com

Local Movie Theaters
YELLOWPAGES.COM Official Site - Find
yellowpages.com

Home Theater System
Find Home Theater System Nearby.
Local.com

Ads by Yahoo!

