



Choose a Section

REVIEWS



PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2

| Christy Lemire
 April 17, 2015 | 68

Think of the worst movie you've ever seen – a movie that didn't make you laugh, didn't make you cry, didn't move you or change you in any way besides giving you the desperate urge to flee the theater. Think of a movie that was a massive waste of your time and money. Hold that title in your mind.

"Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2" is worse than that.

This may sound like hyperbole or piling on. As of this writing, "Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2" is at zero percent on Rotten Tomatoes. (Mind you, Sony didn't screen it for critics before opening day, which is never a show of confidence, so the reviews are still trickling in.)

But truly, there is not a single redeeming moment in director [Andy Fickman's](#) film. A general flatness and lethargy permeates these reheated proceedings. The jokes never land. The slapstick seems strained. The characters are one-dimensional. And the vague attempts at heart at the end don't feel earned.

This is essentially the same movie as the inexplicably successful original "[Paul Blart: Mall Cop](#)," which made over \$183 million worldwide in 2009. Only this time, [Kevin James](#) is even more unlikable as the title character. It seemed impossible when the first film came out that this endearing everyman could play a character that stripped him of all his best on-screen qualities. Back then, Paul Blart was just needy, clueless and annoying, as he smugly patrolled a New Jersey mall on his Segway. In the sequel, he's all of those things but he's also bitter, rude and condescending, which makes him even more repulsive.

In theory, though, we're supposed to root for Paul as he takes a much-needed trip to Las Vegas for a security guard convention. In the proud tradition of so many recent Happy Madison productions—"[Just Go With It](#)" (Hawaii), "Jack and Jill" (cruise ship) "[Blended](#)" (Africa)—"Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2" is a vacation disguised as a movie shoot. It's also an extended infomercial for the Wynn Las Vegas hotel and resort. (Steve Wynn himself makes an awkward, wordless cameo at the conclusion.)

Paul is in need of a pick-me-up after a string of devastating losses, which are played for crass laughs. First, his love interest from the first film leaves him out of nowhere after just six days of marriage. But worse is the fate that befalls his sweet, dear mother ([Shirley Knight](#)), who dies when a milk truck runs over her in front of her house. (This is not a spoiler, folks—it happens in the first few minutes. It's also supposed to be funny for some reason.)

All Paul has left is his darling teenage daughter, Maya ([Raini Rodriguez](#)), of whom he's more psychotically overprotective than ever. So naturally, she can't tell her dad the good news that she got into UCLA. She has to withhold that information to provide the film with a forced source of tension.

Maya also has to come with Paul to Las Vegas, where he's an uninspired cliché of the tacky tourist with his loud shirts, tight shorts and cheap ways. But he carries himself with the swagger of a high roller when he gets the wrongheaded notion that he's the convention's keynote speaker. This includes talking down to the hotel's beautiful and polished general manager ([Daniella Alonso](#)), which makes her fall in love with him, naturally. Just as baffling is the quasi-romantic connection that occurs between Maya and one of the hotel's valet parking attendants ([David Henrie](#)), who seems to have all day to hang around with her, take her for drinks poolside and invite her to a party in a swanky suite.

Print Page

Like 463

+1 2

Now I'm just nitpicking. There are much bigger problems here. The central premise of "Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2" is that Paul inadvertently thwarts a major heist of Wynn's famous art collection. The mastermind is the cool and crisply dressed Vincent ([Neal McDonough](#), playing a generic bad guy, again), who has infiltrated the hotel's own security staff to pull off the crime. Paul throws himself into the action, literally, which results in a series of lame goofs, pratfalls and sight gags. These include a fight with an angry peacock (whom he totally provokes, by the way) and an overlong appearance in the Cirque du Soleil show "Le Reve." In the process, he also must save Maya, who somehow managed to discover the scheme within the vast square footage of the Wynn hotel and fell into the villains' hands.

For some reason, James likes this character, which must mean that he has zero recognition of his strengths as an actor at this point. He also co-wrote the script again with his longtime writing partner, [Nick Bakay](#). Hopefully, they'll both realize that Paul Blart has collided face-first with every object imaginable by now, and we can all call it a day.

Ads by Adblade

More Reviews and a Few Great Offers!



What a beautiful site!



If You Have Gas, Bloating, Constipation Or An Upset Stomach Please Watch This Video



16 Child Stars Who Grew Up To Be Super Attractive!



Whoops! The Prettiest Cheerleaders & Their Embarrassing Moments!



"The way you live, retire, and invest-it could all soon change in ways most Americans don't expect"



Shocking joint ingredient could fix knees in just 1 week?

POPULAR BLOG POSTS

Who do you read? Good Roger, or Bad Roger? Roger Ebert

This message came to me from a reader named Peter Svensland. He and a fr...

Showtime's "Happyish" is a Smug, Self-Righteous Bore Brian Tallerico

A review of Showtime's Happyish with Steve Coogan, Kathryn Hahn, and Bradley Whitford.

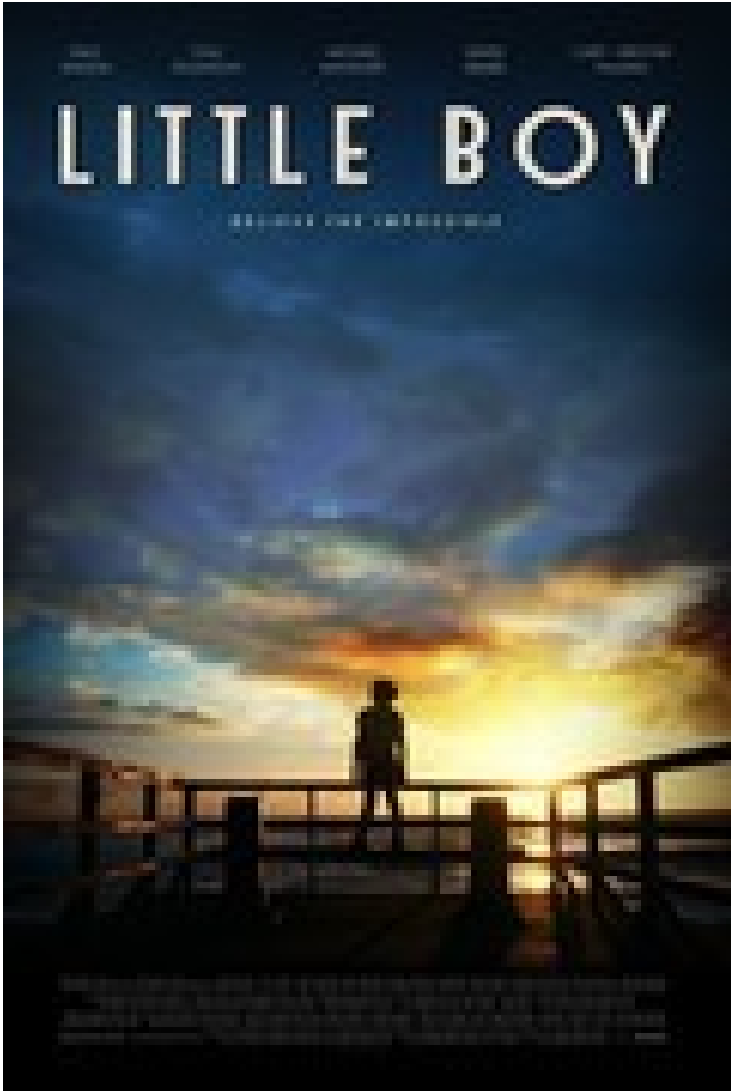
POPULAR REVIEWS



Ex Machina
□ □ □ □

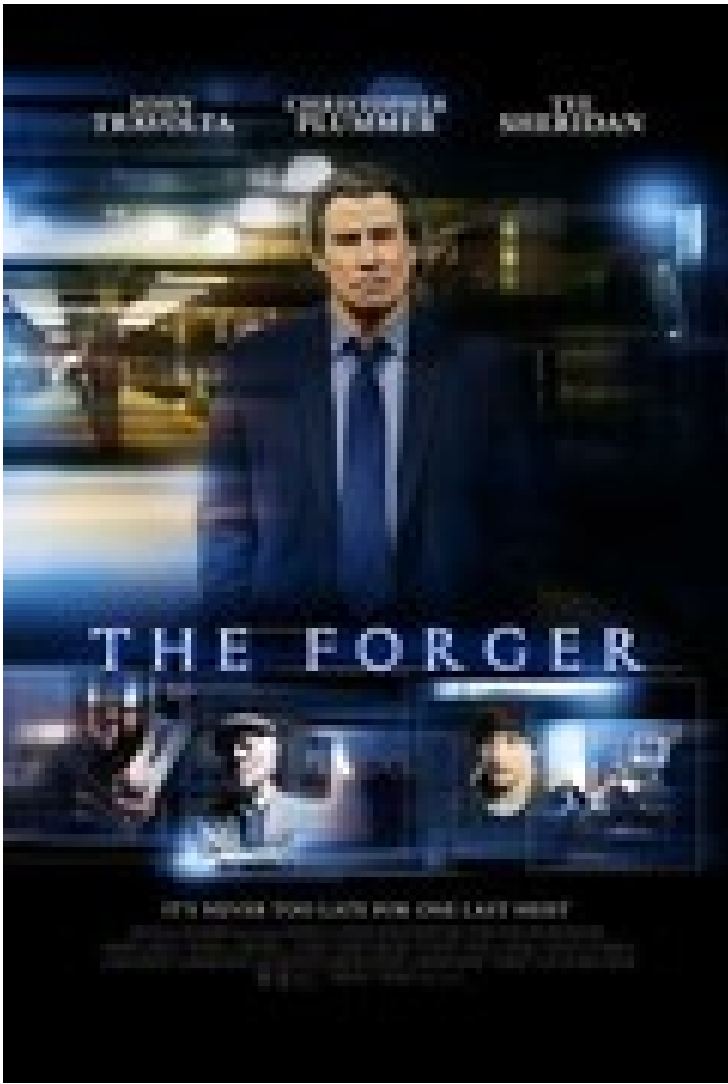


Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
◆



Little Boy

□ □



The Forger

□ □

Reveal Comments

comments powered by [Disqus](#)



PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2 (2015)	
Cast	
	Kevin James as <i>Paul Blart</i>
	Raini Rodriguez as <i>Maya</i>
	Eduardo Verástegui as <i>Eduardo Furtillo</i>
	Daniella Alonso as <i>Divina</i>
	Neal McDonough as <i>Vincent</i>
	David Henrie as <i>Lane</i>
	D. B. Woodside as <i>Robinson</i>
	Nicholas Turturro as <i>Nick Manero</i>
Director	
	Andy Fickman
Screenplay	
	Kevin James
	Nick Bakay
Comedy	
	Rated PG for some violence
	94 minutes

A D V E

zulily shop for **SUN!**

DAILY DEALS UP TO 70% OFF

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST

Enter Your Email Address

[Subscribe](#)

A D V E

The Ebert Club

The Ebert Club is our hand-picked selection of content for Ebert fans. You will receive a weekly newsletter full of movie-related tidbits, articles, trailers, even the occasional streamable movie. Club members also get access to our members-only section on RogerEbert.com

Premiere Member : \$20.00USD - yearly

[Subscribe](#)

A D V E



The 28 TOP UGLY Celeb Spouses

[Click Here](#)

Buzzle.com

[REVIEWS RSS](#)

RELATED ARTICLES



LITTLE BOY

by Christy Lemire

IN THEATERS

<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Days
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Beginners
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Little Boy
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Misery Loves Comedy
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> The Age of Adaline
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> The Forger
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> The Water Diviner
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Alex of Venice
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Beyond the Reach
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Child 44

MOVIE REVIEWS

Reviews
Great Movies

BLOGS

Roger Ebert's Journal
Chaz's Blog
MZS
Far Flungers
Tom Shales At Large
Scanners

CHANNELS

Balder and Dash
Demanders
Thumbnails
Interviews
Festivals & Awards
Sundance
Life Itself
Cannes
Tributes to Roger
Letters
Opening Shots Project

CONTRIBUTORS

Roger Ebert
Chaz Ebert
Matt Zoller Seitz
Brian Tallerico
Simon Abrams
Godfrey Cheshire
Odie Henderson
Glenn Kenny
Christy Lemire
Sheila O'Malley
Susan Wloszczyna
Ali Arikan
Jim Beaver
Steven Boone
Danny Bowes
Dave Bunting
Sean Burns
Dan Callahan
Christopher Campbell
Jen Chaney
Seongyong Cho
Olivia Collette
Edward Copeland
Brian Doan
Aurore Duiguo
Justine Elias
Steve Erickson
Matt Fagerholm
Sam Fragoso
Bruce Fretts
Noah Gittel
Michael A. Gonzales
Ian Grey

Scott Jordan Harris
Rowan Kaiser
Wael Khairy
Ben Kenigsberg
Joyce Kulhawik
Kevin B. Lee
Donald Liebenson
Craig D. Lindsey
Laya Maheshwari
Marsha McCreadie
Patrick Z. McGavin
Nell Minow
Michael Mirasol
Jana Monji
Omar Moore
Omer M. Mozaffar
Lisa Nesselson
Scott Nye
Michał Oleszczyk
R. Kurt Osenlund
Kartina Richardson
Alyssa Rosenberg
Lisa Rosman
Nick Schager
Barbara Scharres
Charlie Schmidlin
Tom Shales
Krishna Bala Sheno
Peter Sobczynski
Collin Souter
Bill Stamets
Scout Tafoya
ReBecca Theodore-Vachon
Katherine Tulich
Gerardo Valero
Pablo Villaça
Ignatij Vishnevetsky
Grace Wang
Anath White
Max Winter

© Copyright 2015, Ebert Digital LLC

[About the Site](#) [Contact Us](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#)

[Movies by Letter](#) [Cast and Crew](#)

