

Film Review: Shia LaBeouf, Michael Douglas Drive Energetic 'Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps'

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on September 24, 2010 - 9:32am

- [Allan Loeb](#) [2]
- [Brian Tallerico](#) [3]
- [Carey Mulligan](#) [4]
- [Eli Wallach](#) [5]
- [Frank Langella](#) [6]
- [HollywoodChicago.com Content](#) [7]
- [Josh Brolin](#) [8]
- [Michael Douglas](#) [9]
- [Shia LaBeouf](#) [10]
- [Stephen Schiff](#) [11]
- [Susan Sarandon](#) [12]
- [Vanessa Ferlito](#) [13]
- [Wall Street](#) [14]
- [Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps](#) [15]

CHICAGO – After a string of disappointments that include “Alexander,” “World Trade Center” and “W,” one of the best directors of the 1980s and 1990s at least draws closer to form with the entertaining “Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps”. The film is a great vehicle for Shia LaBeouf, Josh Brolin and Michael Douglas that occasionally disappoints but crackles more often than it fizzles.



Rating: **4.0/5.0**

The character of Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) returns in “Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps,” introduced on his way out of prison for his activities from the Oscar-winning first film, only to find no one there to pick him up. The man who helped define an era of greed by proclaiming it good has been left on his own. Where does a relic of the '80s go from here?



[Read Brian Tallerico's full review of "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps" in our reviews section.](#) [16]

It will take some time to find out as Stone's film shifts gears and turns to the story of Jake Moore (Shia LaBeouf, doing the best work of his career), a loyal, smart young trader who works at a troubled firm headed by Louis Zabel (Frank Langella). As his mentor's company collapses, Jake stays by his side, trying to weather the storm at a firm that would end up being the canary in the coal mine for the 2008 crisis that would soon impact all of Wall Street. Sadly, Zabel made a few too many questionable decisions and the mega-wealthy Bretton James (Josh Brolin) takes advantage of his weaknesses to takeover the companies for only a few dollars a share. Zabel is heartbroken and jumps in front of a train.

As Jake tries to piece together the professional and emotional elements of his life, he attends a book-selling event by Gekko himself and informs him that he plans to marry his daughter. Jake lives with and loves Winnie Gekko (Carey Mulligan, miscast), a charismatic young lady who never wants to speak to her father ever again. Moore is inspired by Gekko, a truly different kind of mentor, who it appears could help the young man get his revenge against the despicable James. Will he? Can Jake keep his new dynamic with his father-in-law secret from his future wife? Most importantly, can this (almost too) moral young man really swim in the same pool as Gordon Gekko and Bretton James?



[Continue reading for Brian Tallerico's full "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps" review.](#) [16]

"Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps" stars Shia LaBeouf, Carey Mulligan, Michael Douglas, Josh Brolin, Eli Wallach, Susan Sarandon, Vanessa Ferlito, and Frank Langella. It was written by Allan Loeb and Stephen Schiff and directed by Oliver Stone. It is rated PG-13 and opens on September 24th, 2010.



Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
Photo credit: Barry Welcher/Fox

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- [13] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/vanessa-ferlito>
- [14] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/wall-street>
- [15] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/wall-street-money-never-sleeps>
- [16] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/reviews/11907/shia-labeouf-michael-douglas-drive-energetic-wall-street-money-never-sleeps>