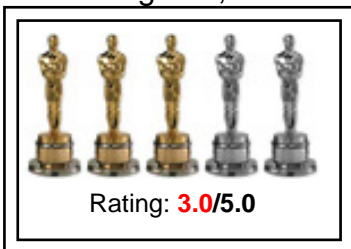


## Film Review: ‘The Hangover Part II’ a Funny, Formulaic, Desperately Shocking Carbon Copy

Submitted by [HollywoodChicago.com](http://www.hollywoodchicago.com) [1] on May 26, 2011 - 11:40pm

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CHICAGO – Business and creative people go together as well as fine wine at a burger joint. Riding on the heels of the monumentally profitable “The Hangover,” the brass win out over the artists in “The Hangover Part II”.



Sequels usually fail because they’re just subpar as compared to their initial flash of genius. On the surface, “The Hangover Part II” appears to take chances by radically upping the ante on the film’s shock factor. But delving beneath the smoke and mirrors, the film actually is trying desperately not to let you down by riling you up even more.

Part two puts a new meaning to “Bangcock” when the film’s bachelor finds a woman who – if she was a Ms. Potato Head – was misassembled with one body part that makes you go hmmm. Successful comedy, though, doesn’t come from having to drop more “F” bombs or falling down more stairs. Just ask Bill Cosby. That innovator could even make the vanilla subject of his family funny.



[Read Adam Fendelman’s full review of “The Hangover Part II”](#) [18]

Instead, “The Hangover Part II” falls victim to a pure game of numbers. Two years ago, the surprise hit “The Hangover” unpredictably grossed a whopping \$467 million globally on a budget of \$35 million. As sequels typically score a fatter budget the second time around after their first was highly profitable, “The Hangover Part II” more than doubled the initial budget to \$80 million.

And with more than twice as much money to work with, the stakes are even higher this time around to dish out another cash cow. That’s why the creative team behind “The Hangover Part II” was only allowed to write the same kind of material within the same exact formula as the first film. Warner Bros. already knows that equation works, so in the sequel, they figured it’d be too risky to upset the applecart with a bold new direction.

*“The Hangover Part II” stars Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis, Ed Helms, Paul Giamatti, Ken Jeong, Mike Tyson, Jeffrey Tambor, Mason Lee, Jamie Chung, Nick Cassavetes, Sasha Barrese, Gillian Vigman, Aroon Seeboonruang, Nirut Sirichanya and Yasmin Lee from director Todd Phillips and writers Craig Mazin and Scot Armstrong. The film is rated “R” for pervasive language, strong sexual content (including graphic nudity), drug use and brief violent images. “The Hangover Part II” opened everywhere on May 26, 2011 with a running time of 102 minutes.*



[Continue for Adam Fendelman’s full “The Hangover Part II” review.](#) [18]



Left to right: Zach Galifianakis, Bradley Cooper and Ed Helms in “The Hangover Part II”.  
Image credit: Warner Bros. Pictures

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