

## ‘Get Hard’ is Less Than the Sum of Its Parts

Submitted by [PatrickMcD](#) [1] on March 27, 2015 - 7:07pm

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Rating: **2.0/5.0**

CHICAGO – Will Ferrell is a funny guy. Kevin Hart can be a funny guy. But the prison buddy comedy “Get Hard” is woefully less than the sum of its comedic parts. It fires buckshot of lame jokes at its audience, but precious few come anywhere near their targets as it squanders nearly every comic opportunity that comes its way.

Ferrell stars as a wealthy hedge fund manager with a gold-digging fiancée (Alison Brie) and a house full of servants who can barely conceal their disdain for him. His life begins to crumble when he’s accused of fraud and embezzlement, and arrested at his own birthday party. No one is asking for “The Verdict” in a Will Ferrell/Kevin Hart comedy, but even by the lackadaisical standards of a studio comedy, Ferrell is convicted and sentenced to 10 years hard labor in San Quentin based on alarmingly little evidence, and with little or no provocation.



Working it Out in ‘Get Hard’

*Photo credit: Warner Bros.*

That’s not to say the film is completely without laughs. Ferrell manages to wring a few chuckles, but it’s more because of his line readings and inflections than anything actually on the page – and Chicago improv legend T. J. Jagodowski has a small but amusing role.

“Get Hard” is more about missed opportunities. It never maximizes the physical slapstick comedy of Ferrell the gentle giant, and Hart the

hyperactive motor mouth in a tiny body. There are a lot of talented people on-screen, but getting laughs is one task that’s just too hard for “Get Hard.”

*“Get Hard” opens everywhere on March 27th. Featuring Will Ferrell, Kevin Hart, Craig T. Nelson, Alison Brie, Greg Germann, Matt Walsh and T.J. Jagodowski. Screenplay by Etan Cohen, Jay Martel and Ian Roberts. Directed by Etan Cohen. Rated “R”*



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By [SPIKE WALTERS](#) [18]

Contributor

[HollywoodChicago.com](http://HollywoodChicago.com)[spike@hollywoodchicago.com](mailto:spike@hollywoodchicago.com) [17]

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