

sex scene from risky business

Risky Business is a film that has become a cornerstone of 1980s cinema, not only for its iconic moments but also for its candid portrayal of teenage exploration and sexuality. Directed by Paul Brickman and released in 1983, the film features Tom Cruise as Joel Goodson, a high school student whose life is turned upside down when his parents leave town and he seizes the opportunity to indulge in a night of freedom. One of the most memorable and talked-about scenes in the movie is the sex scene, which encapsulates the film's themes of youthful exuberance, recklessness, and the complexities of emerging adulthood. This article will delve into the nuances of that scene, exploring its significance, execution, and impact on both the film and popular culture.

Setting the Scene: Context and Characters

Before diving into the specifics of the sex scene, it's essential to understand the characters involved and the context surrounding the moment.

Joel Goodson

Tom Cruise's character, Joel Goodson, is portrayed as a typical suburban teenager: bright, ambitious, yet naive. He is a high school senior on the cusp of adulthood, grappling with the pressures of academic performance and social expectations. The film begins to explore Joel's journey as he navigates the complexities of teenage life, particularly around sexuality and relationships.

Rebecca De Mornay as Lana

Lana, played by Rebecca De Mornay, enters Joel's life as a mysterious and seductive figure. She is a high-class escort who embodies both allure and danger. Lana represents the adult world that Joel is both attracted to and intimidated by. Their relationship is central to the film's narrative, serving as a catalyst for Joel's transformation from a boy into a more self-assured young man.

The Build-Up to the Scene

The sex scene does not occur in isolation; it is the culmination of a series of events that lead to an undeniable chemistry between Joel and Lana.

Freedom and Rebellion

Joel's decision to throw a party in his parents' absence marks the beginning of his rebellion against the constraints of his suburban life. This act of defiance sets the stage for his encounter with Lana. Key moments leading up to the scene include:

1. Joel's Encounter with Lana: Their first meeting is charged with tension, as Joel is both captivated and bewildered by her.
2. The Establishment of Trust: As Joel and Lana interact more, a sense of trust develops, which is crucial for the intimacy that follows.
3. The Party Atmosphere: The party serves as a backdrop that amplifies the sense of freedom and possibility, making the sex scene feel like a natural progression in their relationship.

Analyzing the Sex Scene

The sex scene itself is notable for its portrayal of intimacy and its artistic execution.

Visual and Artistic Choices

One of the most striking aspects of the scene is its cinematography. The film employs a dreamy visual style that enhances the surreal quality of the moment. Key elements include:

- Lighting: The soft, warm lighting creates an intimate atmosphere, contrasting with the coldness often associated with transactional relationships.
- Camera Angles: The use of close-ups captures the emotions of the characters, revealing their vulnerability and connection.
- Soundtrack: The accompanying music plays a pivotal role, heightening the romantic tension and underscoring the emotional stakes of the scene.

The Emotional Resonance

Beyond the physical aspects, the scene is rich with emotional undertones. It reflects Joel's inner journey—his desire for connection, the thrill of rebellion, and the bittersweet nature of first love.

- Vulnerability: Both characters reveal their vulnerabilities, which deepens the viewer's investment in their relationship.
- Consequences: The scene foreshadows the complexities and consequences of their actions, as it intertwines pleasure with the potential for emotional fallout.

The Cultural Impact of the Scene

The sex scene in *Risky Business* resonated with audiences and critics alike, leaving a lasting impact on popular culture.

Challenging Norms

At the time of its release, *Risky Business* was groundbreaking in its frank depiction of teenage sexuality. It challenged societal norms by portraying a consensual sexual encounter between two young adults, moving away from the often sensationalized or moralistic portrayals typical of the era.

Iconic Status

The scene has since achieved iconic status, often referenced in discussions about teen films and sexual awakening. It has influenced other filmmakers and writers, serving as a benchmark for how to approach similar themes in a more nuanced manner.

Reception and Controversy

While the film was generally well-received, the sex scene did stir controversy, reflecting broader societal attitudes towards teenage sexuality.

Critics' Perspectives

Some critics praised the film for its honest portrayal of teenage life, while others argued that it glamorized risky behavior. The duality of these perspectives highlights the ongoing debate about the representation of sex in film and its implications for young audiences.

Enduring Relevance

Today, *Risky Business* continues to spark conversations about sexuality, consent, and the pressures faced by adolescents. The sex scene, in particular, remains a point of discussion, illustrating how cultural contexts evolve while certain themes remain timeless.

Conclusion: A Defining Moment in Cinema

In conclusion, the sex scene in *Risky Business* is more than just a pivotal moment in the

film; it is a reflection of the complexities of teenage life and a commentary on the transition into adulthood. Through its artistic choices, emotional depth, and cultural impact, the scene captures the essence of youthful exploration and the consequences that come with it. As audiences revisit this iconic film, they are reminded of the delicate balance between innocence and experience—a theme that resonates as strongly today as it did in the early 1980s. Thus, *Risky Business* remains not only a defining film of its era but also a compelling exploration of the nuances of growing up and navigating the intricacies of human relationships.

Frequently Asked Questions

What makes the sex scene in 'Risky Business' iconic?

The sex scene in 'Risky Business' is iconic due to its combination of youthful exploration, memorable music, and the way it captures the essence of 1980s culture. The scene is also notable for its humor and the juxtaposition of innocence and experience.

How did the portrayal of sexuality in 'Risky Business' influence teen films that followed?

The portrayal of sexuality in 'Risky Business' set a precedent for teen films in the 1980s and beyond, introducing a more open and frank discussion of teenage sexuality. It paved the way for other films to explore similar themes with a mix of comedy and drama.

What role does the setting play in the sex scene of 'Risky Business'?

The setting of 'Risky Business,' particularly the opulent suburban home, plays a critical role in the sex scene as it symbolizes both the freedom and the consequences of adult life. The contrast between the luxurious environment and the characters' youthful naivety enhances the overall impact of the scene.

How did 'Risky Business' impact Tom Cruise's career after the release of the sex scene?

The sex scene in 'Risky Business' significantly boosted Tom Cruise's career, establishing him as a leading man in Hollywood. The film's success and Cruise's performance showcased his charisma and talent, leading to more prominent roles in subsequent blockbuster films.

What cultural significance does the sex scene in 'Risky Business' hold today?

Today, the sex scene in 'Risky Business' is often referenced in discussions about sexual awakening and the complexities of teenage life. It reflects the shifting cultural attitudes towards sex and relationships in the early 80s and continues to resonate with audiences for its blend of humor and candidness.

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