

the bad news bears in breaking training cast

The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training Cast

The 1976 film "The Bad News Bears" directed by Michael Ritchie became a cult classic, known for its unique blend of comedy and heartfelt moments centered around a youth baseball team. Following its success, the franchise expanded with a sequel, "The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training," released in 1977. This film not only continued the story of the misfit team but also introduced a new cast of characters that became beloved by fans. In this article, we will delve into the cast of "The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training," explore their roles, and highlight the film's significance in popular culture.

Overview of "The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training"

"The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training" is a sequel to the original film, following the misadventures of the Bears as they journey to Houston, Texas, to participate in a championship game against the reigning champions. The film retains the essence of the first installment, featuring the same mix of comedy, underdog spirit, and social commentary on youth sports.

Plot Summary

The plot picks up with the team's coach, Morris Buttermaker (played by Walter Matthau), who is reluctantly pulled back into coaching the Bears after the team's previous success. The Bears face numerous challenges, including a lack of funding, infighting among team members, and the overarching theme of teamwork and perseverance. The film's climax revolves around their participation in the championship game, where they must overcome their flaws and unite as a team.

The Main Cast of "The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training"

The film features a mix of returning characters from the original movie along with new faces that added fresh dynamics to the story. Let's explore the main cast and their respective roles.

Walter Matthau as Morris Buttermaker

Walter Matthau reprises his role as Morris Buttermaker, the disheveled and cynical coach. His character remains a source of comic relief while also providing deeper insights into the challenges faced by youth coaches. Buttermaker's reluctance to fully embrace his responsibilities reflects the film's underlying commentary on parenting and mentorship.

Jackie Earle Haley as Kelly Leak

Jackie Earle Haley returns as Kelly Leak, the talented yet rebellious player who often finds himself at odds with authority. Kelly's character embodies the struggle of young athletes who are trying to find their place while dealing with personal issues. His development throughout the film highlights themes of friendship and loyalty.

Other Returning Cast Members

Several other characters from the original film make appearances, contributing to the continuity of the story:

- Tatum O'Neal as Amanda Whurlitzer: The talented girl pitcher who challenges gender norms within the team.
- Alfred Lutter as Mike Engelberg: The outspoken and sometimes brash member of the Bears.
- Gary Lee Cavagnaro as Tommy Lasorda: A character who provides comedic moments and represents the fan culture surrounding baseball.

New Cast Members

Aside from the returning cast, "Breaking Training" introduces several new characters who enrich the narrative:

- Jimmy Baio as Miguel "Micky" Mantle: A new recruit who adds both talent and tension to the team dynamic.
- Brett Cullen as an opposing coach: His character serves as a foil to Buttermaker, representing the more traditional and serious approach to youth sports.
- Kurt Russell as the Narrator: Although his role is not as prominent as others, Russell's narration provides context and depth to the unfolding story.

The Impact of the Film on Youth Sports Culture

"The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training" was significant not only as a comedy but also as a commentary on youth sports. It tackled several relevant issues, including:

- **The Pressure to Win:** The film reflects the intense pressure placed on young athletes and their coaches, illustrating how this pressure can lead to both positive and negative outcomes.
- **Teamwork and Friendship:** The underlying theme of the importance of teamwork resonates throughout the film. The Bears learn to put aside their differences and work together, showcasing valuable lessons about cooperation.
- **Social Commentary:** The film includes commentary on social issues such as bullying, economic disparity, and the role of parents in youth sports. The diverse backgrounds of the team members highlight the melting pot of American society.

Cultural Legacy and Reception

Upon its release, "The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training" received mixed reviews but has since garnered a loyal following. The film's humor and heart have made it a staple in discussions about sports movies and youth culture. Its legacy can be seen in various adaptations and remakes, emphasizing its lasting impact.

Influence on Future Sports Films

The film paved the way for many sports comedies that followed, setting a precedent for the portrayal of youth sports in cinema. Subsequent films often drew inspiration from the underdog story, combining humor with life lessons. Notable examples include:

- **"Space Jam":** A mix of live-action and animation that brought together sports and comedy.
- **"Little Giants":** A film that echoed similar themes of teamwork and rivalry through a youth football team.
- **"The Mighty Ducks":** Another iconic series that embraced the underdog narrative, focusing on ice hockey.

Enduring Popularity and Merchandise

The film's cult status has led to a revival of interest, with merchandise, screenings, and even discussions on its relevance in today's sports culture. Fans often cite the film's charm, humor, and relatability, and it continues

to be a reference point in conversations about youth athletics.

Conclusion

"The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training" remains a beloved film that captures the essence of youth sports through its engaging characters and humorous yet poignant narrative. The cast, both old and new, played pivotal roles in bringing the story to life, creating a memorable experience that resonates with audiences. The film's ability to address serious themes while maintaining a light-hearted tone is a testament to its lasting appeal. As youth sports continue to evolve, the lessons learned from the Bears—about teamwork, resilience, and the joy of play—remain timeless.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who directed 'The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training'?

The film was directed by Michael Ritchie.

Which character does Walter Matthau reprise in 'The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training'?

Walter Matthau reprises his role as Morris Buttermaker.

What is the primary setting for 'The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training'?

The film is primarily set in Houston, Texas, where the Bears travel for a tournament.

Who are some of the key cast members in 'The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training'?

Key cast members include Walter Matthau, Joyce Van Patten, and the young actors playing the Bears team.

What is the main plot of 'The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training'?

The plot revolves around the Bad News Bears traveling to Houston to participate in a baseball tournament and facing various challenges along the way.

How does 'The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training' compare to the original film?

While the original film focuses on the team's struggles in Little League, the sequel emphasizes their growth and experiences in a more competitive environment.

What themes are explored in 'The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training'?

The film explores themes of teamwork, perseverance, and the importance of sportsmanship.

Did 'The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training' receive critical acclaim?

The film received mixed reviews, with some praising the humor and performances, while others felt it didn't quite capture the charm of the original.

Is 'The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training' part of a larger franchise?

Yes, it is the second film in the Bad News Bears series, following the original 1976 movie and followed by a third installment.

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