

tom cruise from risky business

tom cruise from risky business is a pivotal figure in the history of 1980s cinema, marking the emergence of one of Hollywood's most enduring stars. This article explores Tom Cruise's breakthrough role in the 1983 film "Risky Business," detailing the film's background, Cruise's performance, and the impact it had on his career trajectory. Known for his charismatic screen presence and memorable scenes, Cruise's portrayal of Joel Goodsen remains iconic in popular culture. The discussion will also cover the film's production, critical reception, and its lasting legacy in the entertainment industry. Through an in-depth examination, readers will gain comprehensive insight into why tom cruise from risky business continues to be a subject of interest for fans and film historians alike. The following sections will provide a structured overview of these aspects.

- Background and Production of Risky Business
- Tom Cruise's Role and Performance
- Cultural Impact and Legacy
- Critical Reception and Box Office Success
- Influence on Tom Cruise's Career

Background and Production of Risky Business

"Risky Business" is a 1983 coming-of-age comedy-drama directed by Paul Brickman. The film was written by Brickman himself and produced during a period when teen films were gaining significant popularity. The story centers on Joel Goodsen, a high school student who embarks on a series of risky ventures while his parents are away. The film was shot primarily in Chicago, showcasing the city's architecture and urban atmosphere, which contributed to the movie's distinct visual style.

The production process involved a modest budget, allowing creative freedom that helped cultivate the film's unique tone. The screenplay combined humor, drama, and social commentary, reflecting the ambitions and anxieties of American youth in the early 1980s. The casting of Tom Cruise as the lead was a strategic choice, as he was then an emerging actor with several smaller roles but had not yet achieved widespread fame.

Filming Locations and Cinematography

The choice of Chicago as the filming location was instrumental in grounding the narrative in a realistic urban environment. Cinematographer Howard Atherton employed a sleek visual style that emphasized both the glamour and the underlying tension in Joel's story. The film's memorable sequences, including the famous dance scene, utilized innovative camera work to enhance its appeal.

Screenplay and Direction

Paul Brickman's script is noted for its sharp dialogue and well-crafted character development. The direction balanced comedic elements with a more serious exploration of youth rebellion and economic pressures. This blend elevated "Risky Business" beyond a typical teen comedy, giving it a lasting relevance.

Tom Cruise's Role and Performance

Tom Cruise from Risky Business portrayed Joel Goodsen, a bright but sheltered teenager whose life changes dramatically over a weekend. Cruise's performance displayed a mix of charm, vulnerability, and mischievousness, capturing the complexity of a young man navigating newfound freedom and moral dilemmas. This role was a significant departure from his earlier work, showcasing his ability to carry a film as the lead actor.

Cruise's energetic portrayal was complemented by his natural charisma, which quickly resonated with audiences. His interpretation of Joel included a blend of innocence and daring, making the character relatable and memorable. The iconic scene featuring Cruise dancing in his underwear to "Old Time Rock and Roll" became a defining moment in his career and in 1980s pop culture.

Character Development

Joel Goodsen's character arc reflects a transition from naivety to maturity. Throughout the film, Cruise effectively conveys Joel's internal conflict as he makes decisions that test his ethics and resourcefulness. This nuanced performance helped establish Cruise as a versatile actor capable of depth and complexity.

Notable Scenes and Performances

Several scenes from "Risky Business" stand out due to Cruise's compelling performance:

- The opening dance scene symbolizing Joel's carefree and rebellious spirit
- Interactions with secondary characters highlighting his charm and quick wit
- The climactic moments illustrating his growth and accountability

Cultural Impact and Legacy

The cultural impact of Tom Cruise from Risky Business is substantial, influencing both the film industry and popular culture. The movie helped define the teen film genre of the 1980s and set new standards for storytelling and character portrayal. Its themes of youth rebellion, capitalism, and sexual awakening tapped into the zeitgeist, making it resonate with a wide audience.

Beyond the film itself, Cruise's performance and the movie's imagery have been referenced and

parodied in various media. The dance scene, in particular, remains a symbol of youthful exuberance and cinematic innovation. "Risky Business" also contributed to the trend of combining comedy with social commentary in mainstream films.

Fashion and Style Influence

The film's wardrobe and styling choices influenced fashion trends, especially among teenagers and young adults. Cruise's casual yet iconic look in the movie—white shirt, underwear, and socks—became a cultural shorthand for carefree confidence and rebellion.

Enduring Popularity in Media

Decades after its release, "Risky Business" continues to be celebrated in retrospectives and film studies. Tom Cruise's early role is often cited as a turning point in 1980s cinema, maintaining relevance through repeated broadcasts and home media sales.

Critical Reception and Box Office Success

Upon its release, "Risky Business" received positive reviews from critics who praised its sharp script, direction, and Cruise's breakout performance. The film was noted for its balance between humor and social insight, earning it a place among the notable teen films of its era. Critics highlighted Cruise's natural charisma and ability to engage the audience effectively.

Commercially, the film was a significant success, grossing over \$60 million domestically against a modest budget. This financial performance confirmed Tom Cruise from Risky Business as a bankable star and encouraged studios to cast him in more prominent roles.

Critical Highlights

Reviews often focused on the following strengths:

- Paul Brickman's clever and witty screenplay
- Cruise's energetic and nuanced portrayal of Joel Goodsen
- The film's stylish direction and cinematography
- The effective blending of comedy with deeper themes

Box Office Performance

The commercial success of "Risky Business" was instrumental in elevating Tom Cruise's profile in Hollywood. The film's profitability demonstrated the audience's appetite for sophisticated teen

comedies and solidified the genre's viability.

Influence on Tom Cruise's Career

Tom Cruise from *Risky Business* marked the beginning of a prolific and diverse career in the film industry. The success of the movie opened doors for Cruise, allowing him to secure lead roles in major studio productions. His ability to portray complex, relatable characters became a defining characteristic of his acting style.

Following *"Risky Business"*, Cruise starred in several high-profile films throughout the 1980s and beyond, including *"Top Gun," "Rain Man,"* and the *"Mission: Impossible"* series. His early exposure in *"Risky Business"* helped establish his reputation as a versatile and dedicated actor, capable of both dramatic and action roles.

Career Milestones Post-Risky Business

Key films and achievements that followed include:

1. *"Top Gun"* (1986) - Cemented Cruise as an action star
2. *"Rain Man"* (1988) - Showcased dramatic acting skills
3. *"Born on the Fourth of July"* (1989) - Earned critical acclaim and award nominations
4. *"Mission: Impossible"* series (1996-present) - Established a long-running franchise

Legacy as an Actor

Tom Cruise's portrayal in *"Risky Business"* remains a foundational element of his career, illustrating his early promise and screen presence. The role helped define his public image and demonstrated his capacity to connect with audiences, traits that have sustained his success for decades.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the lead actor in the movie 'Risky Business'?

Tom Cruise is the lead actor in the movie *'Risky Business'*.

What character does Tom Cruise play in 'Risky Business'?

Tom Cruise plays the character Joel Goodson in *'Risky Business'*.

Why is Tom Cruise's performance in 'Risky Business' significant?

Tom Cruise's performance in 'Risky Business' is significant because it was one of his breakout roles that showcased his charisma and helped launch his career in Hollywood.

What iconic scene is Tom Cruise known for in 'Risky Business'?

Tom Cruise is known for the iconic scene where he dances in his underwear to the song 'Old Time Rock and Roll' in 'Risky Business'.

When was 'Risky Business' starring Tom Cruise released?

'Risky Business' starring Tom Cruise was released in 1983.

Additional Resources

1. Risky Business: The Making of a Cult Classic

This book delves into the behind-the-scenes story of the 1983 film "Risky Business," which launched Tom Cruise into stardom. It explores the film's production challenges, casting decisions, and iconic scenes that have cemented its place in pop culture. Interviews with the cast and crew provide unique insights into the movie's lasting impact.

2. Tom Cruise: From Risky Business to Hollywood Icon

A comprehensive biography that traces Tom Cruise's journey from his breakthrough role in "Risky Business" to becoming one of Hollywood's biggest stars. The book covers his early life, career milestones, and personal challenges, offering readers an in-depth look at his evolution as an actor.

3. The 80s Movie Revolution: How Risky Business Changed Teen Films

This book examines the influence of "Risky Business" on the teen film genre of the 1980s. It analyzes the cultural and cinematic shifts sparked by the movie, highlighting how it redefined youth narratives and helped shape future teen comedies and dramas.

4. Behind the Scenes with Tom Cruise: Stories from Risky Business

A collection of anecdotes and interviews revealing Tom Cruise's experiences during the filming of "Risky Business." Featuring contributions from co-stars, directors, and crew members, the book paints a vivid picture of the energy and creativity on set.

5. Risky Business and the Soundtrack that Defined a Generation

An exploration of the iconic soundtrack of "Risky Business" and its role in enhancing the film's mood and popularity. The book discusses the selection of songs, the impact of music on 80s cinema, and how the soundtrack contributed to the movie's cult status.

6. Acting Breakthroughs: Tom Cruise's Early Career Highlights

Focusing on Tom Cruise's early roles, this book highlights his performances in "Risky Business" and other formative projects. It provides analysis of his acting style, preparation methods, and the key factors that distinguished him as a rising talent in Hollywood.

7. Risk and Reward: The Business Side of Making Risky Business

This book offers an inside look at the financial and production aspects of creating "Risky Business." It covers budget considerations, marketing strategies, and the film's box office success, illustrating how the movie became a lucrative venture for its producers.

8. Fashion and Style in Risky Business: A 1980s Icon

An in-depth look at the fashion trends popularized by "Risky Business," particularly Tom Cruise's memorable look in the film. The book explores how the movie influenced 80s fashion and continues to inspire style today.

9. The Legacy of Risky Business: Tom Cruise's Impact on Pop Culture

This book assesses the long-term cultural significance of "Risky Business" and Tom Cruise's role in shaping 80s pop culture. It highlights references in music, television, and film, demonstrating the movie's enduring influence on entertainment and society.

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