

Part II: Revenge of the Sequel

What *Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey* and *The Godfather Part II* have in common.

What are the worst sequels ever?

Unscientific research shows...

1. Tremors II
2. Teen Wolf II
3. Son of Mast
4. Tron Legacy
5. Grease 2
6. Hangover 2
7. The upcoming Horrible Bosses Sequel

What are the best sequels ever?

According to very unscientific research, including google and cheap wine....

1. Godfather II
2. Terminator II
3. Empire Strikes Back
4. Toy Story II
5. The Dark Knight
6. Lord of the Rings II: The Two Towers
7. Star Trek II: Wrath of Kahn
8. Aliens
9. Mad Max II
10. Super Man II

What's important about the previous lists?

1. All the movies are franchises.
2. If a film makes money twice, it will probably make money a third time
3. Many of the best sequels are the 2nd in a trilogy...
4. No James Bond films on the list... sorry Pierce.

The Challenge



Is *Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey* as good of a sequel as *The Godfather Part II*

What makes a good sequel?

1. Expand the **PREMISE**

- Uphold the story world and build on it
- Act 1 - Sequence 1

2. Heighten the **TENSION**

- More conflict
- Stronger Antagonist
- Higher Stakes

2. Increase the **CATHARSIS**

- protagonist gains or loses more

Expand the Premise

expand the “magic” world of the movie, while maintaining the verisimilitude and spirit of the original

The Godfather

(Mario Puzo & Francis Ford Coppola)

Godfather 1

- Story is set in 1945
- Takes place in NYC & Sicily
- Opens in Vito's office, during a wedding. Amerigo Bonasera asks for favor.

1. Opening 0:40
2. Sicily - 3:30



The Godfather II

INT. DON CORLEONE'S OLD OFFICE - CLOSE VIEW ON MICHAEL CORLEONE - DAY

standing impassively, like a young Prince, recently crowned King.

CLOSE VIEW ON Michael's hand. ROCCO LAMPONE kisses his hand. Then it is taken away. We can SEE only the empty desk and chair of Michael's father, Vito Corleone. We HEAR, over this, very faintly a funeral dirge played in the distance, as THE VIEW MOVES SLOWLY CLOSER to the empty desk and chair.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A SICILIAN LANDSCAPE - FULL VIEW - DAY

We can barely make out the funeral procession passing over the burnt-brown of a dry river bed. The figures move slowly, seemingly from out of hundreds of years of the past.

The MUSICIANS walking unsteadily on the rocky bed, their instruments harsh and blaring.

They are followed by six young peasant men, carrying the crude wooden coffin on their shoulders. Then the widow, a strong large woman, dressed in black, and not accepting the arms of those walking with her.

Behind her, not more than twenty relatives, few children and paisani continue alone behind the coffin.

Suddenly, we HEAR the shots of the lupara, and the musicians stop their playing. The entire procession scatters in odd directions along the rocky river bed.

The young men struggle with the burden of the heavy coffin, throwing it out of balance and nearly crashing to the ground. We hear a woman SCREAMING:

WOMAN

(Sicilian)

They've killed young Paolo! They've
killed the boy Paolo!

EXT. SICILIAN LANDSCAPE - MED. VIEW - DAY

across the slain body of a fourteen year old boy, lying on the parched ground. In the distance we see four or five of the mourning women, the wind blowing their black dresses and veils, running up to the body of the boy. They begin to wail, and cry out in anguished Sicilian, as the widow, the mother of the murdered boy, holds her child in her arms, his fresh blood wetting her strong hands.

EXT. BARONIAL ESTATE - TIGHT MOVING VIEW - DAY

A boy, eight or nine, with wide, frightened eyes, being pulled quickly by the hand. This is VITO ANDOLINI, who is to become The Godfather.

The Godfather II

(Mario Puzo & Francis Ford Coppola)

Opening

- The boss is dead
- Son has a big chair to fill
- Flashback to old world
- They kill a child!
- Vito is DUMB!
- They kill his mom (thats both parents if you are counting)
- Go on to show Vitos escape
- The viewer knows its going to be two stories told side by side

Heighten The Tension

As Charlie would say... more more more, give me more (then Charlie would swear at me)

The Godfather

(Mario Puzo & Francis Ford Coppola)

The Tension

- Sollozo wants to protection in exchange for drug money
- Family refuses, they try to kill Vito
- Family's power at stake, Vitos life is at risk.
- Sonny Dies
- Mob War

The Godfather II

(Mario Puzo & Francis Ford Coppola)

The Tension

- Family needs Gaming license to operate business, they are being extorted by Senator Turnbull
- Kay wants to Michael to be legitimate business
- Hit on Michaels life, wants to go find out
- Michael goes on trial
- Kay has a miscarriage
- Vito takes on The Black Hand Don Fannucci
- Look at a brother Fredo

1. Fredo 1 = 29:05
2. Fredo 2 = 1:43



VIEW ON THE DANCE FLOOR

Deanna has been dancing with Fredo; she has gotten drunk and is teasing her husband by flirting with other men on the floor.

DEANNA

I wanta dance...whatsa matter with that?

FREDO

Dancing is alright; you're falling on the floor.

DEANNA

Whatsamatter, you don't want me to dance with him 'cause he's a man!

FREDO

Deanna, I'm going to belt you right in the mouth!

DEANNA

These Eye-ties are really crazy when it comes to their wives.

By now guests are starting to notice the disturbance; Michael is with Kay, and some friends; Rocco catches his eye.

DEANNA (O.S.)

Jesus, never marry a WOP, they treat their wives like shit.

VIEW on Kay, listening, embarrassed by her flashy sister-in-law.

VIEW ON FREDO AND DEANNA

Rocco passes by Fredo and whispers:

ROCCO

Freddie, Mike says take care of it,
or I have to.

DEANNA

He's a friend of your brother!

Without another word, Rocco grabs firm hold of her and
whisks her out of the crowd.

DEANNA

"Shuffle off to Buffa...
Shuffle off to Buffa...
Shuffle off to Buffalooooo..."

Freddie mops his forehead, and moves to Michael.

FREDO

Hey Mike, what can I say?

MICHAEL

Forget it, just go take care of her.

The Payoff

Equal if not greater catharsis than original

The Godfather

(Mario Puzo & Francis Ford Coppola)

The End

- End of Act 2 Vito secures Michaels return to US as Don
- Michael plots revenge and kills the heads of rival mob families
- Restores the family

HD





HD

INT. HIGH SECURITY HOUSE IN ARMY POST - NIGHT

The FBI man knocks on the bathroom door in the house where they have kept Pentangeli.

FBI MAN #1

Frankie, open up. You okay?

No answer; he hammers on the door. Using his elbow, and then a kick he breaks into the bathroom.

HIS VIEW

Pentangeli lying in a tub of water. His stomach shows above it. His wrists are cut and covered with blood. The bath water has a purplish tone.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LAKE TAHOE - MED. VIEW - SUNSET

Fredo and Neri are fishing, each with lines out. The VIEW MOVES CLOSER, and we can hear Fredo as he holds the pole.

FREDO

... the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

LONG SHOT

The boat on the shimmery lake.

FREDO

... Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us...

We hear a quiet, echoing GUNSHOT; and then silence.

DON FRANCESCO'S VIEW

Strangely backlit, almost blurry image of the young man from America.

DON FRANCESCO

(Sicilian)

What is your name?

VITO

(Sicilian)

Vito Corleone.

DON FRANCESCO

(Sicilian)

You took the name of this town, eh?

What was your father's name?

VITO

(Sicilian)

Antonio Andolini.

CLOSE VIEW ON THE OLD MAN

The recognition of the name throws a shudder through him. It is as though he recognizes that this is the boy; the son of his old enemy, whom he had killed, and whose sons he had tried to wipe out. The old man raises his feeble hands signalling his guard, and in his weak voice, he shouts:

DON FRANCESCO

(Sicilian)

Kill him! Kill him!

But he is too late; Vito steps forward.

VITO

(Sicilian)

In the name of my Father, and my

Brother...

And uses the knife, ritualistically plunging it into the old man's belly, and then up to his throat, which is severed.

The Godfather II

(Mario Puzo & Francis Ford Coppola)

The End

- Michael escapes the Gaming & Drug charges
- He kills his enemies
- He kills his brother (who betrays him)
- Vito kills Don Ciccio in Sicily!

What makes a good sequel?

1. Expand the **PREMISE**

- Vito's Rise
- Michael filling fathers shoes

2. Heighten the **TENSION**

- Family Betrayal

2. Increase the **CATHARSIS**

- Vito gets ultimate revenge
- Son becomes like father

The Numbers

The Godfather

\$133,629,921

Opened first in 6 theatres

The Godfather II

\$47,542,841

Opened first in 6 theatres

So what about Bill & Ted?





**CLASSIC
TRAILER**

Excellent Adventure

1. **Premise** - Bill and Ted travel through time to get good grades
2. **Tension** - Their futures are at risk and on occasion their lives
3. **Payoff** - They get good grades and avoid military school (Not a ton of catharsis). They do get girlfriends but it wasn't a goal from the start.



HD

Bogus Journey

1. **Premise** - Bill and Ted travel to heaven and hell to defeat villains from the future
2. **Tension** - Can they save the future! Can they get back to life!
3. **Payoff** -
 - Evil robots defeated by homemade good robots
 - Heros to best villains that are stronger (Chuck De Nomolos)
 - Station invents DIY
 - Death is redeemed as a character
 - KISS writes and epic rock ballad

What went wrong?

1. Excellent Adventure “captured the zeitgeist” of the time.
2. The marketing of Bogus Journey was bad
3. Bad cinematography / production

The Facts

Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure - 40.5 Million

Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey -38 Million

in 2013 7 of the 10 top grossing movies were franchises or sequels

Godfather 3 actually grossed more than Godfather 2!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_film_sequels_by_box-office_improvement

<http://www.boxofficemojo.com/franchises/?view=Franchise&sort=sumgross&order=DESC&p=.htm>




classic

All Time Hits



1. Gaming = 16:50
2. Shooting = 33:33