

Office Space: love, embezzlement and the jerk-off boss

by Natalie Gagliano
staff writer

Office Space is a comedy that portrays the typical obstacles that white collar workers experience on a daily basis. The film casts Ron Livingston and Jennifer Aniston as the main characters.

Ron Livingston plays Peter Gibbons, a computer programmer who checks for the Y2K bug on bank computers. He is rather miserable due to the day to day drudgery of his job and his bitchy and faithless girlfriend. He works with Michael Bolton (David Herman), whose name is continuously confused with the singer Michael Bolton, Sumir (Ajay Naido), an immigrant who has yet to fulfill the American Dream, and Milton (Stephen Root), a nerd who takes all the crap from the bosses without saying a word. Gary Cole plays Bill Limberg, the vice president of the company who treats his employees like trash beneath his shoe.

Peter and his girlfriend attend a hypnosis session to relieve the stress they have been experiencing from their relationship, and the hypnotist ends up having a heart attack, leav-

ing Peter in a "I don't give a shit" frame of mind.

Nevertheless, Peter ends up receiving a phone call from his girlfriend the following day, and they get into an argument. Peter tells her exactly how he is feeling, and she confirms Peter's belief that she has been cheating on him all along. The relationship is ended.

Peter then decides he is not going to work that day, or the next, or any other day for that matter. When he finally decides to go to work, Peter discovers through the grapevine that the company is beginning to lay off workers. When he has an interview with the downsizers, he informs them that he hates his job and he only does about 15 minutes of real work a day. He is then promoted.

Peter decides after the promotion that he is going to come up with a plan to embezzle money from the company, since he views the company as greedy for canning people that don't need to be laid off. His two helpers become Michael Bolton and Samir, his colleagues. They create a program that makes a fraction of a cent left over from every transaction.

Peter discovers a girl named

Joanna, played by Jennifer Aniston, who works at the theme restaurant adjacent to the company. She is also having problems of her own at her job; her boss constantly nags her about her not wearing more than fifteen flairs a day. Peter falls in love with her and tells her about his plan. She disapproves of it and tells him he has gone too far.

And he has gone too far, because it is soon discovered that the three make more money than was expected, enough for someone to notice. Peter decides he has to turn himself in.

The movie is hilarious when it portrays how ridiculous and dehumanizing corporate life really is. There's the upbeat secretary, who beams so much that you want to strangle her, the meaningless and annoying memos, the fax machine that doesn't work even if you beat the thing to death, and a jerk-off of a boss.

Office Space starts out funny, satirizing the typical life of a white-collar worker. The second half of the movie, following the hypnotist incident, becomes boring when the embezzlement plan is developed and put into action. The plot transgresses from Peter's promotion to his embezzle-



Jennifer Aniston and Ron Livingston share a romantic moment in the Twentieth Century Fox presentation of *Office Space*.

ment plan.

The movie did not give Jennifer Aniston, Michael Bolton, David Herman, etc. enough limelight. Their roles were not very big at all, especially Jennifer Aniston's. And, believe

me, the director could have given Aniston's character a bigger role, considering the fact that the only reason why guys went to see the movie was due to the fact that Aniston was starring in it!

I would definitely recommend the movie if you have ever experienced corporate life or will be in the future. This movie definitely has a lot to say about this distinct job: It sucks!

The Corruptor is little more than a typical cop shoot-em-up flick!

by Michael Coursey
staff writer

The Corruptor is a less than riveting police action movie that is very predictable at times and does offer some storyline dilemmas. The movie, starring Chow Yun-Fat as Nick Chen, a well established, well connected cop in New York's Chinatown. Mark Wahlberg also stars as Danny Wallace, a young, muscular, eager policeman trying to make a positive impression. Nick Chen knows the way of the street and is not afraid to cozy up to the Chinese mob bosses (who are involved in drugs, prostitution and smuggling of illegal immigrants) He takes payoffs and sexual favors in order to obtain inside

information. Chen believes this doesn't sacrifice his integrity as a good cop.

When Danny Wallace is the only Caucasian assigned to the Chinatown beat, his effectiveness as an undercover reporter is questioned. They ride him about wanting to be "too Chinese" and not really knowing what it means to be Chinese in America. Wallace exclaimed that "he just wanted to do his job as a cop."

The major problem with the movie, in my estimation, was that the scenes were strung together in a rush to get to the next scene of violent gunplay or car crashes. One scene had a ten minute car chase where it seemed 10 or more innocent civilians were killed or wounded and millions in

property damage was accumulated.

The one underlying theme that seemed to make the movie interesting was the question; do you stand by your partner, through thick and thin? This has been done quite often in police dramas; and when the FBI is brought in to investigate it makes the stakes that much higher.

The extremely quick cuts between the scenes did take away from the movie and the continuity had a roller coaster effect on me. Overall I think Mark Wahlberg did a adequate job, he has promise as an actor, (but he's no Matt Damon yet). Chow Yun-Fat's personality carried this movie along, although I thought it could have been much better. I give this movie a wary 2 and 1/4 stars.

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- 45 Ms. Newton-John
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- 60 Protruding rim of a wheel
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- 9 Expected
- 10 Harrow's rival
- 11 Virtuously
- 12 Alice Kramden's friend
- 13 Did ushering
- 18 Hive resident
- 21 Best and Ferber
- 23 Also
- 24 Hockey setting
- 25 Pound of poetry
- 29 Metric weight, briefly
- 30 Sub shop
- 32 Imprint clearly
- 33 Black or White, e.g.
- 34 Stumble
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DOWN

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- 65 Small boy



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