

THE SHIRLEY BROTHERS COMEBACK

A feature film written by Alana Gerdes

LOGLINE

A former child star is forced to reboot his career with the help of his no-good brother to settle his debt to the mob, finding that dirty money goes a long way in Hollywood.



INTRODUCTION

Featuring a behind-the-scenes view of making movies, an exhilarating car chase through Hollywood, and a jab at the paparazzi business, this buddy-comedy pays homage to some of the greatest action heroes of the last decades as well as to child actors who grew up in the limelight with all its ups and downs.

Not taking itself too seriously, this feel-good flick is bound to make the audience laugh out loud, showcasing why they fell in love with movies in the first place.



MAIN CHARACTERS

JACKIE SHIRLEY

Close to bankruptcy, this former child star unexpectedly finds his way back to Hollywood fame, only to realize that the more he gets entangled in the glitz and glamor, the more he lets the person who supported him the most behind.

LOLA PALAZZI

Smart and determined, this paparazzi gets entangled in the Los Angeles criminal scene when the subject of her pursuit is suddenly more threatened by the mob's financial interests than by the tabloid's hunger for scandal.

RODDY SHIRLEY

Growing up in the shadow of his Hollywood star brother, this good-for-nothing wannabe stuntman finally finds his own path when a real-life action hero is needed, proving that Hollywood would be nothing if not for the people behind the scenes.

HECTOR GONZALES

This drug lord-gone-producer has big aspirations for his ever-expanding business, knowing that movie stars are often more worth dead than alive. Unfortunately for him, Hollywood proves to be a much more tight-knit family than he expected.

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

In present-day Beverly Hills, former child star Jackie Shirley spends his days smoking weed with his no-good brother Roddy, being a pain in his famous neighbors' butts, and occasionally getting stalked by the quick-witted paparazzi Lola. One day the brothers get a surprise visit by a couple of gangsters who kidnap them. Unknown to Jackie, Roddy has raked up quite some debt with cartel boss Hector, who demands his money back. However, having no money after his messy divorce and no movie roles since he has grown out of his child star phase, Jackie sees himself forced to make a movie using Hector's dirty money, starring him and Hector's wannabe-actress Rosita in the lead roles.

Jackie and Roddy set out to meet Jackie's washed-up agent Rhonda, and after some sucking up from her former protege she agrees to help them. She manages to get a veteran director on board for the movie, who, despite the terrible script written by Hector himself, sees the potential of making a good old-fashioned blockbuster.

SYNOPSIS

ACT II

The team begins the shoot, and Jackie gets back on track by chumming up with his co-stars and handsome stuntman. Roddy, who has once hoped to become a stuntman himself but decided to support his brother's career instead, feels left out. He decides to host a party to celebrate his birthday while Jackie goes out of town, during which he bonds with Rosita. At the same time, Jackie gets abducted again and gets confronted with his brother's alleged advances to Rosita as Hector explicitly forbade any funny business with his sister. Jackie gets released in the middle of the night in the hills of Griffith Park. Luckily for him, Lola has witnessed the kidnapping and comes to his rescue, and they start to bond.

Back at his villa, Jackie and Roddy fall out over Roddy's reckless behavior and Jackie's ungratefulness for all the support his brother has given him throughout his career. Roddy leaves and shacks up with a befriended fast food vendor. To make ends meet Roddy starts working for him, where he overhears Hector's lawyer discussing how they plan to kill Jackie on the night of the premiere to not only cash in on his life insurance but also use the unscreened movie as a tax write-off. Roddy tells Jackie and Lola about the plan, and the three decide to take matters into their own hands.

SYNOPSIS

ACT III

On the night of the premiere, Lola uses her camera equipment to see an explosive device attached to Rosita's brooch. It soon explodes and fires a bullet into Jackie's chest, though he remains unharmed as he is wearing a bulletproof vest. Hector escapes in a limo, and Roddy, finally being able to flex his stuntman muscle, follows him on an exhilarating chase through Hollywood, passing by various veteran action heroes who are more than happy to enjoy their retirement, save for two badass leading ladies who come to his aid.

A couple of months later Roddy is finally doing his own thing by opening a stunt school and moving into the house next door to his brother. Jackie, on the other hand, is back on Hollywood's A-list and expecting his first child with Lola, learning that despite all the fortune and fame, family matters the most, even in Tinseltown.

MOOD BOARD







REFERENCES



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alana Gerdes is a Swiss-Australian financial crime prevention expert who specializes in writing crime dramas (the irony is not lost on her).

She likes to spice things up with some romance and comedy, thus creating complex and relatable characters that resonate with the audience. Self-motivated and committed to innovative and original scripts, she has gained recognition in multiple screenwriting competitions.



THANK YOU FOR READING

For more information, please reach out to Alana Gerdes by email (a.gerdes@gmx.ch), phone (+41 79 548 77 03), or Skype (Alana Gerdes).