

Golden Boys  
Sean Gilbert & Brooks Robinson

The best thing that can be said for "Golden Boys" is that it defies all explanation. It begins as a simple road trip film about four friends dealing with the mundane problems their everyday lives present. What it becomes is more like a collaboration between Voltaire and the Zucker Brothers, kind of a modern retelling of "Candide" with a greater appreciation for the ridiculous and without the encumbrance of literary profundity.

If there is ever a moment where we are supposed to identify with the characters, it is easy to miss. Anytime the script steers toward any hint of a structured plot, it immediately plunges into a haze of magical realism and asinine humor. What would normally be considered relevant story elements are constantly overshadowed by comic nonsequiturs whose only purpose seems to be to divert the reader from the fact that the story is pointless, the characters are without depth and not at all interesting, and none of the established conflicts within the plot has any satisfactory resolution.

The script comes off as an attempt to marry the conventions of drama and comedy, but plays out more like a struggle between the two. The dramatic narrative is presented in contrast to the comedic subtext, and the only thing worse than seeing them thrown together is imagining how they would work if each stood alone. The script is a parody of itself, having the effect of trying to watch a serious movie with an idiot heckling it in the audience.

The pacing is disorienting, to put it politely. If there is a three-act structure to the story, then the third act outweighs the first two combined. Subplots and characters are established in this act, which is supposed to be the story's resolution. The lopsidedness of the plot structure is akin to a band playing a one-hour show, then for an encore playing three days' worth of new material. The story, more or less, begins when the characters reach Savannah, so why didn't the authors choose to begin the script here? The only purpose the first two acts of the script serve is as prologue.

On top of the script's many other flaws, its major sequences - none of which have anything to do with the story - are ludicrously elaborate. From robot cars to exploding volcanoes, "Golden Boys" has more FX shots than "Jurassic Park". And even if you could get the budget to realize all these unnecessary FX properly, what would be the point? Spending the kind of money it would take to make this movie work would be like trying to get a pinto to run by giving it the engine of a Ferrari. Those kind of resources would be better spent elsewhere.

In my opinion - and I hope I'm right - this script is unfilmable.

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