



Friends with benefits

The stars of *Humpday*, on their adorable straight/gay porno and why buff guys aren't funny.

Humpday is a smart, bloody hilarious mumblecore indie about two straight pals, who get wasted at a party and conspire to make an amateur gay porn together for real-life erotica film festival Humpfest. Directed by Lynn Shelton and starring Joshua Leonard (*The Blair Witch Project*) and Mark Duplass (*Baghead*) as Ben (rootless, lonesome) and Andrew (married, sensible), *Humpday* is more charming than salacious. "All three of us are big fans of making movies that are shaggy and improvised, but have a nice, healthy plot so people don't get bored," says Duplass, whose *The Puffy Chair* is Jonah Hill's favourite movie. Heavily improvised, even Leonard and Duplass weren't sure how far Ben and Andrew would go in *Humpday*'s, er, climactic scene.

So Mark, did you really trick Joshua into starring in *Humpday*?

Mark It sounds more conniving than it was. It was a product of my subconscious fear to bring up the idea. I flipped him an email, like, "Hey, do you want to play my best friend in a movie?" **Joshua** It was the most obtuse film pitch in history, but *The Puffy Chair* blew my mind, so honestly it could have been a snuff film about two guys jumping off a cliff and I would have said yes.

You went in with no script – just a detailed outline for each scene...

Joshua Lynn gave us a tremendous amount of latitude. For me, because I'm not that smart or talented, when I'm improvising it needs to be based in a reality, even if it's hyperbolised. A lot of Andrew is me from a decade, 15 years ago.

Did you expect it to turn out so funny?

Joshua A tremendous amount of that is Nat Sanders, our editor. If you watched

the raw footage, it's sporadically funny and quite often really boring.

Mark There's about 35,000 shitty movies that could have come out of this movie and Nat got the right one.

Did you do anything to get in shape for the hotel porn-shoot rendezvous?

Joshua A ton of little blue pills! I made sure I was prepared to pee a lot.

Mark I'll tell you exactly what I did. My family went to Hawaii for a week and I ate the breakfast buffet every day. I ate the shit out of the bacon tray. And then I was, "Oh my god, in three weeks I'm gonna be in a hotel room with my

clothes off." But, you know, buff guys just aren't funny.

How was the kiss?

Joshua That was my first ever man-kiss! And I was honestly kind of excited. I'm 34,

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Friends forever: Mark Duplass (left) and Joshua Leonard star in *Humpday*.



and if there are any underlying parts of me that could eventually come out, I wanna discover them now. And I discovered that physically at least, there is no latent homosexuality in me. **Mark** It didn't seem that awkward in light of what could be happening in the hotel room. It was like, "This is not as difficult as what might be happening in the next 20 minutes."

If you had to choose a male star to make a *Humpfest* film with, who would it be?

Joshua I can look at Johnny Depp or George Clooney and go, "They are beautiful men." Would I wanna touch their pee-pees? Like, not really...

Mark I've never really had a man-crush but I'd say Heath Ledger.

Without giving away what happens, how far were you prepared to go?

Joshua All the carnal penetration shots wound up on the cutting room floor. DVD extras, man!

MM

Humpday opens on 18 December. For the latest news and video, check out tinyurl.com/tfhump



THE BEAVER

ETA 2011

Insert lewd joke here.

Can Mel Gibson ever make us forget his inebriated introduction of the phrase 'sugar tits' into the 21st Century lexicon? Playing a depressed toy manufacturer who seeks solace by wearing a beaver-hand puppet could be a good start. Mel gives good crazy, and he's teaming up with pal Jodie Foster for this "dark indie comedy", which Steve Carell and Jim Carrey briefly flirted with. Playing Mel's unhappy wife (with *Star Trek*-ker Anton Yelchin as the son who lobbies her to file for divorce), Foster's also behind the camera for this spaced oddity about a man who transforms his personality pretending to be a chatty British rodent. Anyone who suffered through *Maverick* will be forgiven for failing to feel the love about a second Gibson-Foster pairing, but, on the plus side, *The Beaver* topped Hollywood's 'Black List' of awesome unproduced screenplays, earning comparisons from those in the know to Charlie Kaufman's brain-trips. Encouraging signs, then. **MM**



THE INSIDER

Our man in LA has water worries...

Argh! Liquid has been falling from the sky! Yes, welcome to Los Angeles when a bit of rain falls. We've had an early start to the wet weather and the city is just not set up to deal with it – the power starts to fluctuate and the roads become rivers because they don't drain properly. Personally, *The Insider* blames that Morgan Freeman/Christian Slater movie *Hard Rain*.

Cheer up though, Halloween is upon us and the big theme parks here go all out to scare the punters. *The Insider's* favourite was Universal's Halloween Horror Nights, which seemed to draw from almost every horror

franchise invented. Nice to see *Shaun*

Of The Dead included among the films getting a reference: just don't use the 'z' word.

Following on from the big debates about even bigger billboards that litter the sides of buildings here, the latest gimmick is the pressure wash ad, where a stencil is used to clean the muck away from a patch of street, leaving a mention of a car or some other product in dirt. Get ready for fresh controversy.

