

LEGALLY BLONDE



WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT A LITTLE ROMANTIC COMEDY ABOUT BLONDE EMPOWERMENT WOULD GROSS CLOSE TO \$100 MILLION AT THE BOX OFFICE AND BRING REESE WITHERSPOON TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE LIST OF YOUNG UP-AND-COMERS? MGM'S 2001 RELEASE OF "LEGALLY BLONDE" WAS SO SUCCESSFUL THAT IT SPAWNED THIS 2003 SEQUEL/FORMULAIC COPYCAT, "LEGALLY BLONDE 2: RED, WHITE & BLONDE."

REESE WITHERSPOON DONS HER CHARACTER'S OBNOXIOUS SIGNATURE COLOR, PINK, FOR HER RETURN AS ELLE WOODS: LAWYER, SPOKESPERSON FOR INTELLIGENT BLONDES, AND IN "LEGALLY BLONDE 2," POLITICAL ACTIVIST FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS. FINDING HERSELF WORKING FOR A LAW FIRM THAT CAN'T GET BEHIND HER CAMPAIGN TO FREE HER BELOVED PET CHIHUAHUA'S MOTHER FROM A RESEARCH LABORATORY, ELLE PACKS HER DESIGNER BAGS AND HEADS TO WASHINGTON D.C. TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WORKING FOR REPRESENTATIVE RUDD (SALLY FIELD), IT'S UP TO ELLE TO BRING TO FRUITION A BILL THAT WILL BAN THE TESTING OF COSMETICS ON ANIMALS.

ALONG THE WAY SHE ENCOUNTERS RESISTANCE FROM A MOB OF SUPPORTING PLAYERS, HEADED UP BY REGINA KING IN A ROLE THAT UNFORTUNATELY DOESN'T ALLOW HER MUCH ROOM TO SHINE. THERE ARE SIDE PLOTS INVOLVING GAY DOGS IN LEATHER, ELLE'S UPCOMING WEDDING, AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF A DRAB COWORKER INTO THE PROM QUEEN (SORRY THAT'S "SHE'S ALL THAT," I'M MIXING MY 'TRANSFORMATION' MOVIES).

IF YOU WERE A FAN OF THE FIRST "LEGALLY BLONDE" CHANCES ARE GOOD YOU'LL ENJOY THIS SECOND EDITION, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A FLUFFY ESCAPIST FILM WHERE YOU CAN CHECK YOUR BRAIN AT THE DOOR. REESE WITHERSPOON AS ELLE STILL LOOKS LIKE SHE STEPPED OUT OF THE PAGES OF A FASHION MAGAZINE, SHE STILL TALKS LIKE A SPOILED BEL AIR BRAT, AND SHE'S STILL ADORABLE DESPITE THE OVER-THE-TOP CIRCUMSTANCES SHE FINDS HERSELF IN.

ANIMAL LOVERS WILL GET BEHIND THE FILM'S ANIMAL-FRIENDLY SCRIPT AND FOR ALL THE WOMEN OUT THERE WHO THINK LUKE WILSON IS THIS YEAR'S BEST ON-SCREEN BOYFRIEND (AN HONOR BESTOWED ON HIM IN A RECENT POLL), HE RETURNS AS LUKE'S PATIENT, PUT-UPON FIANCÉE. JENNIFER COOLIDGE STEALS SCENE AFTER SCENE, BOB NEWHART GETS EXPOSED TO A NEW GENERATION OF FANS, AND JESSICA CAUFFIEL AND ALANNA UBACH RETURN AS ELLE'S SORORITY SISTERS, PROVIDING COMIC RELIEF AND MOST OF THE FILM'S FUNNIEST SCENES.

"LEGALLY BLONDE 2" IS REALLY YOUR BASIC FUN SUMMER MOVIE. UNLESS YOU FIND THE THOUGHT OF BLONDES WITH BRAINS CONTROVERSIAL, "LEGALLY BLONDE 2: RED, WHITE & BLUE" IS A PLEASANT, MOSTLY PAINLESS, NON-TAXING DIVERSION.

THE MOVIE'S BOX OFFICE SUCCESS SPAWNED A 2003 SEQUEL, LEGALLY BLONDE 2: RED, WHITE & BLONDE AND AN UPCOMING 2009 DIRECT-TO-DVD SEQUEL, LEGALLY BLONDES. ADDITIONALLY, LEGALLY BLONDE: THE MUSICAL PREMIERED ON JANUARY 23, 2007 IN SAN FRANCISCO AND OPENED IN NEW YORK CITY AT THE PALACE THEATRE ON BROADWAY ON APRIL 29, 2007, STARRING LAURA BELL BUNDY. THE MUSICAL HAS SINCE CLOSED ON BROADWAY.



ELLE WOODS (REESE WITHERSPOON, 32) AND HER CHIHUAHUA, PINK FU FU IN "LEGALLY BLONDE"

CAST (MOVIE)

REESE WITHERSPOON: ELLE WOODS
LUKE WILSON: EMMETT
SELMA BLAIR: VIVIAN
MATTHEW DAVIS: WARNER
GARBER: PROFESSOR CALLAHAN
JENNIFER COOLIDGE: PAULETTE

CAST (MUSICAL)

LAURA BELL BUNDY: ELLE WOODS
CHRISTIAN BORLE: EMMETT
KATE SHINDLE: VIVIAN
RICHARD BLAKES: WARNER
RUPERT: PROFESSOR CALLAHAN
NIKKI SNELSON: PAULETTE

PERFORMANCE

FEB. 13 - FEB. 14, 2009 (CHICAGO)
MARCH 3 - MARCH 5, 2009 (UTAH)
MAY 2 - MAY 9, 2009 (NEW YORK)
JUNE 14 - JUNE 16, 2009 (FLORIDA)
SEPT. 3 - SEPT. 5, 2009 (VIRGINIA)
NOV. 1 - NOV. 2 (WASHINGTON D.C.)