

THE HANGOVER 3

By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



The Hangover 3 is not the hair of the dog sequel that I expected. Nevertheless, the goofy, strange and outrageous wolf pack are still charming enough to warrant a matinee outing. For those of you who don't follow the series, it is all about the misadventures of an odd group of friends; Bradley Cooper is Phil, Ed Helms is Stu, Zach Galifianakis is Alan, Justin Bartha is Doug and Ken Jeong is Mr. Chow.

Their drunken escapades were successful in the first movie and even more so in the second. This time out, it seemed as though they were all having fun but the humor was a little more forced and felt less spontaneous than before. Maybe the intoxication of the premise has run dry and it is time for these talented actors to move on to other projects. As a last hurrah, *The Hangover 3* falls a little short but if you like the guys' camaraderie and the hilarious Mr. Chow, then, by all means, go back for another helping of fun and weirdness in Las Vegas.

What makes this series a winner overall is the relationships that have formed over time. Throughout the life of these movies you can see that everyone had a good time. The wolf pack tries to be a howling throwback to the buddy movies of the 80s only with more violent sight gags. What you can depend on is that these men have each others' backs no matter what happens. Bros before.... Well, you get the picture.

Even when getting on each other's nerves, these are forever friends who will always stay in touch. As a fond farewell to the audience who has laughed along with their highs and lows, the final shot during the credits says everything you ever need to know about the minds that created these characters. One of the things I enjoyed about these men is that they were always in full view of their flaws and their virtues. I like that. I can say with all certainty that I will miss them, but I don't think they need to make another one. Sometimes it is best to quit while you are ahead. So goodbye to the wolf pack and thanks for the laugh-over!

I give *The Hangover 3* three toasts. If you like the first two, go see the last one.

