

Foreign Language Film Festival 2006-2007

Big Wednesday

About the movie

DIRECTOR	John Milius
YEAR / COUNTRY	1978 USA
GENRE	Comedy/drama
ACTORS	Jan-Michael Vincent, William Katt, Gary Busey



PLOT

The film spans the period from 1962 to 1974 and is set on the coast of California. It focuses on the lives of three friends who have in common a passion for surfing, a passion that is so great that it holds their friendship together. The water, the waves, the ocean, and everything connected to surfing is a mean through which they can express life's joys and problems.

The music of the 60's and 70's as well as the social and political problems of America at that time also provide a backdrop for the film. As they get older certainly their ability to surf well goes down, but their passion for everything connected to surfing never diminishes. The photography of waves and surfers is wonderful.

LANGUAGE

The language is relatively easy. A few terms in the slang of the time related to surfing are used but the film in general can be understood quite easily.

VOCABULARY

To pass out: to faint	Tuxedo: formal black suit
Board: surf board	To do something 'come hell or high water': to do something whatever happens
Ho-dad: a beginner	A brace: a metal support for a leg
To paddle: in this case, to row with your hands	You're picking on me: you are being hostile with me
A hooter: a party	Curfew: coprifuoco
Chivalry: cavalleria	To ditch school: not to go to school when you should
A swell: a series of big waves	To stretch it: to exaggerate, in this case in terms of spending
Wise ass: an arrogant persons who causes problems	Bad karma: a bad feeling
Hog: a big pig	Footage: film coverage
Crashers: unexpected people who cause problems at parties	He's all screwed up: he has lots of problems
A chicken: a coward	Candy man: drug dealer
To split: to go away	Chicks: girls
To cool it: to calm down and stop doing something	Bone yard: cemetery
Condemn the pier: to order the demolition of the 'molo'	To stand up for: to defend someone or something
To stuff it: to stop it	A place to crash: a place to eat
Draft notice: notice saying that you must join the army	Outrageous: fantastic