

Short Review: The “Austin Powers” films by Dr. John L. Flynn



Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery (1997), New Line Cinema, color, 94 min.

Director: Jay Roach. Writer: Mike Myers. Producers: Demi Moore, Mike Myers, etc. Cast: Mike Myers, Elizabeth Hurley, Michael York, and Mimi Rogers.

Someone just had to do another spoof series of James Bond movies (the **Flint** series with James Coburn, the **Matt Helm** series with Dean Martin, notwithstanding), and Mike Myers also camped up the whole 60's decade—London's Carnaby Street fashions, psychedelic art. . . Yeah, baby! With Mrs. Kensington (Rogers) in tow, much like *The Avengers* British TV series, espionage agent Powers (Myers) pursues the loathsome Dr. Evil (Powers too) through the 60's. Both make the jump to the 1990's (thanks to the convenience of cryonic sleep), and Dr. Evil sets out to dominate the world, while Powers has plans to shag his former partner's daughter Vanessa Kensington (the sensuous Hurley). The comedy ranges from satire to bathroom humor, but the babes look great in their tight, leather outfits or short, short skirts and go-go-boots! Who cares if it doesn't make much sense! Have fun.

Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me (1999). (aka Austin Powers 2). New Line Cinema, Color, 95 min. Director: Jay Roach. Writers: Mike Myers and Michael McCullers. Producers:

Demi Moore, Mike Myers, etc. Cast: Mike Myers, Heather Graham, Michael York, and Robert Wagner.

Less spoofing and more bathroom humor in this **Powers** sequel! Dr. Evil (Myers) uses a “Time-Tunnel”- like time machine to travel back to the late 60’s, and steal Powers’ (Myers too) mojo, but sexy, go-go girl Felicity Shagwell (Graham) puts him at his ease with some tender-loving shagging of her own. Evil discovers he cares for his son (Seth Green), and, thankfully, gets a few laughs with the pint-sized Mimi-Me (Verne Troyer). Myers also appears as Fat Bastard, a burned-out Scotsman with a lot of bathroom needs which soon drench the audience’s mind. Expect more cameos and more cheap gags. While Graham is certainly shag-able, we would liked to have seen a lot more of Elizabeth Hurley. This film is for fanatic Myers’ watchers, which includes several million video and DVD buffs.

Austin Powers in Goldmember (2002). (aka Austin Powers 3). New Line Cinema, color, 94 min. Director: Jay Roach. Writers: Mike Myers and Michael McCullers. Producers: Demi Moore, Mike Myers, etc. Cast: Mike Myers, Beyoncé Knowles, Seth Green and Michael Caine. Funnier than the two previous entries, the film series reaches its stride with this parody of “Goldfinger” and other spy thrillers. Myers plays not only Powers, Dr. Evil and Fat Bastard but also Goldmember, a villain who gave his all for gold and wants to destroy most of the world. Of course, his “member” is well represented in this film with the number of phallic symbols. Michael Caine as Austin’s father is not only kidnapped by Goldmember, but he also gets a chance to put-on Austin himself. If you have ever seen Caine in “The Ipcress File” and other Cold War era films, you saw the best portrayal of a grim British agent imaginable. Beyoncé as Foxy Cleopatra (channeling Pam Grier) is sexy in her larger than life afro, but makes us pine even more for Graham or Hurley.

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