

The Weekend Grillers (TheWeekendGrillers.com) present the Weekend Movie Program for:

# The Blues Brothers - 1980

## Plot:

They're on a mission from God.

## Taglines: (Lines use in promotion of the movie)

The Most Dangerous Combination Since Nitro and Glycerine.

A briefcase full of blues.

## Cast:

**John Belushi** .... 'Joliet' Jake Blues (as Jake)

**Dan Aykroyd** .... Elwood Blues (as Elwood)

**James Brown** .... Reverend Cleophus James

**Cab Calloway** .... Curtis

**Ray Charles** .... Ray

**Aretha Franklin** .... Mrs. Murphy

**Carrie Fisher** .... Mystery Woman

## Watch for these familiar faces and future stars:

(Besides the Legends already mentioned, this movie features dozens of famous blues players whose faces you may recognize but haven't done other movies.)

**Henry Gibson**...Head Nazi (from Laugh-In fame)

**John Candy**...Burton Mercer --- I miss John :(

**Steve Lawrence**...Maury Sline

**Twiggy**...Chic Lady

**Frank Oz**...Corrections Officer (Frank Oz is Miss Piggy. Shame on you if you didn't know that!)

**Charles Napier**... Tucker McElroy (You know him because he has been on EVERY cool show for the past 40 years. Check these credits out: Hogan's Heroes, Star Trek, Mission Impossible, Kojak, Streets of San Francisco, Baretta, The Rookies, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Delvecchio, The Rockford Files, Starsky & Hutch, BJ & the Bear, Incredible Hulk, Knight Rider, Simon and Simon, CHiPs, Dallas, The Dukes of Hazzard, Night Court, The A-Team, The Night Stalker, Coach, LA Law, Lois & Clark, Party of Five, Walker Texas Ranger, CSI, Monk, Murder She Wrote, Deep Space Nine and, -- Yes! -- The Simpsons -- just to name but a few. He is also in a little movie called Rambo, First Blood Part 2. Wait I'm not done yet. He's in Walking Tall, The Blue and the Gray Mini Series, China Lake, Swing Shift, Something Wild, War & Remembrance Mini Series, Married to the Mob, National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon, Body Bags, Philadelphia, The Cable Guy, Austin Powers and Lords of Dogtown. But even with all of those (and that's not even a quarter of his credits!) you still remember him best as the policeman who gets the \$#!+ beat out of him by Dr. Hannibal Lecter in Silence of the Lambs.)

**Chaka Khan**...Choir Soloist (Did you know Prince wrote her 1984 monster hit "I Feel For You"? Now you do.)

**Stephen Bishop**...Charming Trooper (More famous as a soft rock singer of songs such as "Save it for a Rany Day" and "Separate Lives", if you recognize him at all it is probably from Animal House -- He is the sap on the stair that gets his guitar busted in that great scene with Belushi.)

**John Landis**...Trooper La Fong, the driver of the 2nd police car in the mall (He directed and wrote this movie along with Aykroyd)

**Paul Reubens**...Waiter (Yes, PeeWee Herman)

**Dean Hill**...Nazi (Played Ted Kaczynski, The Unabomber in a made for TV movie. You probably don't recognize him, I just thought that was interesting)

**John Lee Hooker**...Street Slim (He's a Blues Legend)

...And two Special Mentions

**Stephen Spielberg**... Cook County Assessor's Office Clerk.

**Joe Walsh** (of the Eagles)... Prisoner who jumps on table and dances first near the end.

## Memorable Quotes:

Jake: First you traded the Cadillac in for a microphone. Then you lied to me about the band. And now you're gonna put me right back in the joint!

Elwood: They're not gonna catch us. We're on a mission from God.

Mrs. Tarantino: Are you the police?

Elwood: No, ma'am. We're musicians.

[while they are driving around in the shopping mall with 2 police cars on their tail]

Elwood: Baby clothes...

Jake: This place has got everything.

Elwood: What kind of music do you usually have here?

Claire: Oh, we got both kinds. We got country \*and\* western.

Police Dispatcher: Use of unnecessary violence in the apprehension of the Blues Brothers HAS been approved.

Elwood: It's 106 miles to Chicago, we got a full tank of gas, half a pack of cigarettes, it's dark, and we're wearing sunglasses.

Jake: Hit it.

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# Facts & Trivia:

The genesis of the Blues Brothers was a January 17, 1976 Saturday Night Live skit. In it, "Howard Shore and his All-Bee Band" play the Slim Harpo song "I'm a King Bee," with Belushi singing and Aykroyd playing harmonica, dressed in the bee costumes they wore for the "Killer Bees" sketch.

At time of release, this film held the world record for the number of cars crashed.

The scene in which the band appears in a sauna, clad only in towels, is an allusion to the cover photo on the 1973 Blood Sweat & Tears music album "No Sweat", in which the BST band appears in a sauna in identical pose. Lou Marini and Tom Malone, two of the Blues Brothers Band members, were also in BST and appear in both sauna scenes.

Every time we see the window in Elwood's apartment a train goes past.

Elwood removes his hat three times in the film: when going to sleep in his room, to break the window to get into the Palace Hotel, and towards the end of the movie when the Bluesmobile falls apart. His sunglasses are never removed. Jake removes his sunglasses once, when he is talking to Carrie Fisher, but never removes his hat. In the DVD and cable versions, Elwood doesn't wear sunglasses when he quits his job.

At the end, after the Universal Studios logo is shown, there is an ad for Universal Studios in Hollywood. Below "When in Hollywood, visit Universal Studios", it says "Ask For Babs". The same appeared in Animal House (1978) (Babs is the Animal House character Babs Jensen), and it reappeared in Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) underneath a new Universal Studios Hollywood logo at the end of that movie.

When recording the soundtrack for the movie, Cab Calloway was needed to record his hit "Minnie the Moocher" in better quality than his original album. When he came into the studios he was prepared to do his new disco version that was just released. Of course, the film makers wanted nothing to do with this and asked for the original version, which Calloway reluctantly gave them. (Whew! That was a close one!)

The Soul Food Cafe, where Aretha Franklin sings, was Nate's Deli on Chicago's famed Maxwell Street. It is now a parking lot.

During the crowd's stony silence after Jake and Elwood's debut at the concert, an extra in the audience can clearly be seen making a face at the camera.

The exteriors and many interiors at Daley Center were shot on location, including the shot of the Bluesmobile plowing through the courthouse lobby. In a 1998 interview for Universal, John Landis credited mob help for getting permission from the Cook County Board of Commissioners for this (alluding to the Board being mob-controlled at that time).

Paul Shaffer, who had played with the Blues Brothers during their live shows in the 1970s, was supposed to be the band's keyboardist but Lorne Michaels, having already lost his two biggest stars to this movie, would not let Shaffer out of his "Saturday Night Live" (1975) contract.

Carrie Fisher guest-hosted the SNL episode the Blues Brothers debuted in.

In the new DVD version of the film, there are several added scenes. Elwood appears in one (sans sunglasses!) to tell his boss that he needs to quit because he wishes to become a priest.

The scene where the bluesmobile is driving at 115 MPH on Wells and Wacker Drive is real. The film crew received permission to clear the street for two 100 MPH+ passes. Stunt pedestrians were added after the first pass to add realism.

During filming, John Belushi apparently got drunk, went to a stranger's house, asked if he could have a glass of milk and a sandwich and then crashed on their couch for a couple of hours before the cast and crew found him. (There's a big surprise)

The Blues Brothers opened on June 20, 1980 with a release in 594 theaters. It took in \$4,858,152, ranking second for that week (after The Empire Strikes Back) and 10th for the entire year. But over the years it has gained a following through television and home video. The film in total grossed \$57,229,890 domestically and \$58,000,000 in foreign box offices for a total of \$115,229,890. By genre, it is the sixth-highest grossing musical and the eighth-highest earner among comedy road movies. It ranks second, between Wayne's World and Wayne's World 2 (which, coincidentally, also take place in the greater Chicago metropolitan area, in nearby Aurora, Illinois), among films adapted from Saturday Night Live sketches. The Blues Brothers was also the first American film to gross more money overseas than it did in the United States.

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Recently The Weekend Grillers have started adding additional adult party tips, ideas and recipes (many of which we have gotten from readers & friends) to The Weekend Grillers Website (because, sadly, you cannot live on BBQ alone.) We now have **Weekend Movies** (TheWeekendGrillers.com/movies), **Weekend Drinks** (TheWeekendGrillers.com/drinks) and **Dips & Salsas** (TheWeekendGrillers.com/dipsandsalsa) and we have several more in the planning stages. Visit us today, read some of our ideas and tell us some of your favorites.

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