

## MIKE & DAVE NEED WEDDING DATES (2016)

- Rated R for crude sexual content, language throughout, drug use and some graphic nudity
- \$33,000,000 budget
- 1 hr 38 min
- Directed by Jake Szymanski
- Produced by Fox and Chernin Entertainment

## QUICK THOUGHTS

- Phil Svitek
- Marisa Serafini
- Stephanie Wenger

## DEVELOPMENT

- Mike and Dave Stangle promised in a Craigslist ad they posted in search of dates for a cousin's wedding in 2013. The ad went viral. Prompted a book deal, and a movie adaptation. Dave, at 31 the older bro, pushes pet-themed products for a box delivery service and Mike, 27, is a bartender in Brooklyn because, health insurance. **PIC 01, PIC 02**
  - In which, the Stangles described their ideal dates as "attractive ("or our aunts will judge you") but not too attractive ("or one of our uncles might grope you"), easygoing ("as we'll probably make up flattering lies about you on the spot") and preferably sisters ("but we'll take friends, or even enemies"). They also needed to own their own dresses ("because we don't have any")." Followed by, "We're both in our 20s, single, dashing tall, Anglo-Saxon, respectfully athletic, love to party, completely house trained, relaxed, passionate, smell great, have cool hair, clean up nice, boast great tie collections, will promise to shave, love our mother, have seen Love Actually several times, controversial, provocative, short-sighted (with a big picture mentality), raw, emotional, sensitive but still bad boys."
  - The number of responses that Mike and Dave received to their advertisement on Craigslist seeking wedding dates was about six thousand
  - The two had dashed it off as a joke—a "creative writing thing."
- "Then it went viral, and we had thousands and thousands of respondees," Stangle said in a phone interview, adding later, "these news outlets wanted to come to the wedding and cover who we took, which is, (a) the silliest thing I've ever heard in my life, and (b) we're from a small town, and we didn't want to take attention away from the bride."
- The rights to the real life Mike Stangle and Dave Stangle wedding dates story were sold for a seven figure amount to the 20th Century Fox studio
  - "If you ever get a chance to have a movie made about your life, I highly recommend you do it," Dave tells PEOPLE of working on his first film
- "The family dynamics and the characters are very true and representative of us, and that's really all we wanted," Dave said. "They've included enough of our stuff that we kind of deferred to them on what's going to make the movie great, and they did it." - Mike & Dave
- The main objective was getting the brothers' personalities right—and letting the movie's two fictional heroines take it from there." - Szymanski

- The Stangles said: "If this happens (we estimate the chances at 85%) we refuse ... to let [Ashton Kutcher](#) play either of our characters, however, we will consider him for a supporting role."
- In an interview with show-business trade paper The Hollywood Reporter, CAA agent [Michelle Weiner](#) said: "It was clear that they [the real Mike and Dave who she spoke to on the phone] were great characters and this was great story fodder. They lived up to the hype. They were smart and they were funny. They had all of the comedy and the heart that you need for the start of a great story."

#### WRITING (Andrew Jay Cohen, Brendan O'Brien)

- Both writers for *Neighbors*, *Neighbors 2*
- Real Stangle Bros said the movie is about 85% accurate of

#### STORY/CAST

- **MEETING THE REAL STANGLE BROS:** We were shooting when they came on set, and they were everything that we wanted them to be. They'd show up on set at 11 a.m., and they were already drunk. They're like trying to get me to sneak off behind a dumpster to smoke weed, and I'm like, "Man, I'm at work!" - DEVINE
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** "male nudity is funny"  
(<http://www.vulture.com/2016/07/mike-and-dave-subverts-female-and-male-nudity.html>)
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** story/comedy
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** heartfelt?
- In January 2015, [Zac Efron](#) joined the cast of the film
- In February, [Adam DeVine](#) joined the cast of the film
- In April 2015, [Aubrey Plaza](#) and [Anna Kendrick](#) joined the cast **PIC 03**
- In May 2015, [Stephen Root](#) joined the cast of the film
- "I actually think we're both probably a little more similar to Adam; I think they just had to build in some kind of character to have a base model of being normal," Stangle said, adding, "It wasn't really the story that we cared that they got right; it was more the characters. I know that Zac and Adam had a lot of fun with both of them."

#### ZAC EFRON (Dave Stangle)

- First to get cast
- We went out to Hawaii a week earlier for rehearsal-slash-brother-bonding time, and we just really clicked. It sort of pisses me off how great of a guy he is on top of being America's handsome prince. I got food poisoning when we were shooting, and he was like, "Bro, I'm bringing you Saltines. I'm gonna get you some electrolytes." I'm like the type of person that likes to be left alone when they're sick. But he said, "I'll sleep on your couch. Want me to sleep on your couch?" And I'm like, "No. Get out of here." He's truly just a good guy." - DEVINE

#### ADAM DEVINE (Mike Stangle)

- In a 2014 skit filmed as a promotion for *Neighbors* (2014), [Zac Efron](#) tells [Adam Devine](#) that they could be brothers. In this film, they play siblings. The pair also both appeared in *Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising* (2016)
- Actor [Adam Devine](#) got food poisoning at one point during principal photography in Hawaii

### **ANNA KENDRICK** (Alice)

- When real Mike & Dave visited the movie set in Hawaii to hang out and shoot cameo roles, Kendrick yelled at them to whip out their you-know-whats. “She did. I think she pantomimed,” said Mike. Dave deadpanned: “I was like, do we have to? I’ll do it if I have to. I didn’t.” Mike: “She was going full method into her character.”
- Third of three cinema movie collaborations of actresses [Aubrey Plaza](#) and [Anna Kendrick](#). They both previously starred together in [Life After Beth](#) (2014) and [Scott Pilgrim vs. the World](#) (2010). The pair are best friends in real life

### **AUBREY PLAZA** (Tatiana)

- "Aubrey has a pretty dirty, a foul tongue," Devine, 32, told E! News **Will Marfuggi** about co-star **Aubrey Plaza**, 31.

### **SUGAR LYN BEARD** (Jeanie Stangle)

- Actress [Sugar Lyn Beard](#) said of the filming of the massage sequence with actor [Kumail Nanjiani](#) in an interview with [Comple Pop Culture](#): "We were naked together for a really long time, and as you can see that's not digital - our butts are rubbing against each other. But he was such a professional. He had a sack, a little bag that goes over your unit, and there's a lot of sliding, so sometimes the bag would get loose. By the eighth hour I was like who cares! Just let it go! And Kumail was not having it, he's such a professional, unlike me. 'Just rub your dick on my back, what do I care?' But that day I laughed so much. I'm normally pretty good about keeping it together, but that day I just couldn't do it. Thank goodness I'm having like convulsion orgasms in that scene because laughing actually worked as I was underneath him." **PIC 04**
- His response: I'll tell you the whole story. I knew [director] Jake Szymanski a little bit here and there. We have the same manager and I'm a fan of his. I wrote on SNL for a week when he was there, so we've known each other for a little while. He asked me to come in to read for a bunch of parts and I read four or five different parts along [Adam Devine](#), [Aubrey Plaza](#), [Anna Kendrick](#), [Zac Efron](#) and everybody. After that he called me and wanted me to be in the movie and asked me which part I wanted to play. I knew from the beginning I'd have to get naked to play Keanu. I thought it seemed like the most fun part for sure. I'd never done anything like it. It would force me to try and get into shape. And I've never done a big physical comedy scene like that. So I talked to him a bunch and my managers a bunch because you can't just be naked once. In a film you're kind of naked forever because it will stay online forever. I hemmed and hawed a lot and thought about it and figured I trust Jake comedically. I finally thought, you know what, I'm gonna do it. I'll get almost completely naked. I wanted to challenge myself and push myself to do this thing that I'd never done before and also *[laughs]* use it to try to get in shape.
- Kumail - "A lot of it was improvised. We came up with a lot of extra stuff that wasn't meant to be done. It's all a blur. The thing is, I'm married so that's a whole conversation, too. I explained it to her and she said, "Yes, of course, do it." But then afterward I had to tell her that we did so much more. That's another conversation with my wife. I told her, "We kind of went insane in there a little bit." It's all such a blur."

### **EASTER EGGS / TRIVIA**

- You can actually spot the Stangles in a quick cameo during a meet-and-greet scene, where the girls are meeting the guys' family

- In real life, the Stangles ended up bringing a couple of women they already knew
- The ceremony scene was filmed in front of the Hukilau Cafe which appeared in 50 First Dates (2004) but is not an actual café in real life
- The real life Mike and Dave Stangle make a cameo during the scene when cousin Terry offers to be the middle of a sandwich between two men that walk by
  - “That two seconds took about 12 hours for us to film,” Stangle said. “There were all these people drinking fake tropical drinks. Mike and I were the only ones drinking real drinks. . . . It just took so long, and Mike and I had way too much to drink. Mike was having a hard time telling the difference between his drinks and the prop drinks.”
  - Szymanski recalled things a *little* differently.
  - “They showed up sunburnt and already drunk, and I was like, ‘Oh my God, this is hilarious,’” Szymanski said. “These are them; these are the guys.”

## FACTS

- In real life, the place where the wedding that Mike Stangle and Dave Stangle attended was in Saratoga, New York, USA - but in the movie this has been changed to the exotic vacation locale of Hawaii
- In real life, the Stangles ended up bringing a couple of women they already knew
- "We had a lot of fun with the amount of ridiculous dates we went on with these crazy people from Craigslist who would respond to our ads," Mike explains.
- "After a few weeks when it really started going viral, we had so many emails in our inbox that we were like, 'Why are we being such bro's about this and only picking the hottest chicks, let's go through and find women who seem genuinely unique and interesting,'" Dave says. "That quickly morphed into, 'Let's find women who are f----- crazy and go have these crazy experiences double dating' – and that just spiraled totally out of control."
- Mike and Dave went on dates night after night for weeks, sometimes going on multiple double dates in one evening. "One time we had to ditch these two girls we went out with mid-date because they were acting like such lunatics, stealing stuff from the bar and throwing full drinks at other tables," Dave remembers. Mike adds, "This girl ran after Dave and lifted up his shirt, latched on to him like a spider monkey, and bit him right between the nipples."

## DIRECTING (Jake Szymanski)

- Debut theatrical feature film directed by director [Jake Szymanski](#) **PIC 05**
- Mike and Dave might be the ones whose names are in the title, but Alice and Tatiana “are the driving force of the movie,” Szymanski said in a phone interview. “They spin out the boys, who are normally spinning everybody else out.”

## PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY (Matthew Clark)

- Known for Franklin and Bash
- [Principal photography](#) began on May 25, 2015, and lasted through August 13, 2015
- On June 2, the main cast began filming in [Oahu](#), [Hawaii](#)
- The ATV jump scene and the wedding ceremony were filmed at Kualoa Ranch on Oahu. The ATV scene was filmed in the same valley as [Jurassic Park](#) (1993) and [Jurassic World](#) (2015)

## **EDITING** (Lee Haxall, Jonathan Schwartz)

- **MUSICAL NUMBER:** “We kind of added it last-minute. We wanted a big fun ending, and then Jake and our producer David Ready devised this plan. I remember Anna and I looked sideways at each other when he told us they were going to do a musical number. *Pitch Perfect 2* had just come out, and we were, like, "OK, we see what's happening here.” - DEVINE

## **SOUND/MUSIC** (Jeff Cardoni)

- Jeff Cardoni's talents range from intimate independent fare to full orchestral majesty. With over 30 feature film scores and several network series to his credit, one can hear his work worldwide every day. His unique ability to cross genres has made him a powerful player in the film composing industry.
- Jeff originally studied classical piano, while playing percussion in school orchestra. But it would be rock and roll that would lead him to Los Angeles in 1997. After a brief stint as lead guitarist for the Warner Bros. band "Alien Crime Syndicate", Jeff left to pursue film scoring full time. He worked under several Hollywood composers including John Murphy (*Snatch*, *28 Days Later*) and Christopher Tyng (*Futurama*, *The O.C.*) while studying conducting and orchestration at UCLA. He has received several ASCAP Film and Television Awards for his work on the worldwide hit *CSI: Miami* and was nominated for an Ariel Award for his score to the 2005 feature *7 Dias*.
- His body of work ranges from studio features films such as *Just Friends* for New Line, *Open Season 3* for Sony, *Firehouse Dog* for Fox, *Miss March*, and the latest in the *American Pie* franchise, to television scores such as the CBS drama *The Defenders* with James Belushi, *Wilfred* starring Elijah Wood, *The League* on FX, and the worldwide Jerry Bruckheimer produced hit *CSI: Miami*. He has also worked extensively in independent film, including the Sundance hit *The Vicious Kind*, directed by Lee Toland Krieger and produced by Neil Labute and Oscar nominated director Roland Joffe's *You and I*. Other highlights including creating a new live score for the 2011 Super Bowl on Fox, recorded with an 80 piece orchestra in the world famous Dvorak Concert Hall in Prague.
- Jeff is also an active songwriter, penning the theme songs to MTV's hit "Pimp My Ride", *MadTV* on Fox, and FX's *The League*, with songs appearing countless films, including several on camera songs in the hit "Gotham" for Fox, "Hard Knock Life" with Mike Myers in *Austin Powers: Goldmember*, *Harold & Kumar 2*, *Eurotrip*, *The Sweetest Thing* with Cameron Diaz, *A Walk To Remember*, *New York Minute*, *National Lampoon's Senior Trip* and many others. He also produced several songs with Jon Lajoie for the upcoming soundtrack album to *The League*, and recent albums by indie pop artist Jules Larson, which have appeared recently on the soundtrack to *The Lucky One*. He also produced and mixed a recent Lexus spot for the seminal indie rock band "The Pixies".
- Recent scores include the latest in the worldwide dance franchise, *Step Up: All In* (Summit/Lionsgate), Mike Judge's hit "Silicon Valley" for HBO, and the upcoming drama feature "The Confirmation", directed by Oscar Nominated Bob Nelson (*Nebraska*) and starring Clive Owen and Maria Bello.

## **PROMOTION**

- Premiered at SXSW - March 2016
- “Serious” trailer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czyse6bqMwQ>

- Where Do Brothers Come From? reading - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzRUsl6Q25E>
- **PIC 06, PIC 07**

## **BOX OFFICE**

- Domestic Summary
  - Opening Weekend: \$16,628,170  
(#4 rank, 2,982 theaters, \$5,576 average)
- Widest Release: 2,982 theaters
- In Release: 6 days / 0.9 weeks
- The film was released on July 8, 2016 by [20th Century Fox](#)
- The film opened alongside *The Secret Life of Pets* and was projected to gross \$13–17 million in its opening weekend

## **RECEPTION**

- IMDB: 6.5
- RT: Tatometer 40%; 70% Audience
- The site's critical consensus reads, "*Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates* benefits from the screwball premise and the efforts of a game cast, even if the sporadically hilarious results don't quite live up to either."
- Cinemascore: B
- *Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates* has received mixed reviews from critics, despite the praise from the performances of all four main cast members, particularly [Aubrey Plaza](#)
- According to the Deadline website, the movie's release stateside was "counter-programming targeted to the millennials"

## **SEQUELS**

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**