

SUPER TROOPERS 2 (2018)

- Released US April 20, 2018
- 100 minutes
- \$13.5 million Budget
- Directed by Jay Chandrasekhar
- Produced by Broken Lizard Industries and Cataland Films
- Fox Searchlight Picture
- Rated R (for crude sexual content and language throughout, drug material and some graphic nudity)

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Marisa Serafini
- Andrew Ghai
- JB Zimmerman

DEVELOPMENT

- This movie was released 17 years after the original Super Troopers
- When we went to [the studio] and said, "Hey, we want to make this sequel," they said, "Great. Why don't you raise the money?" And we said, "Okay..." -Chandrasekhar
- Started raising the money 3 years ago
- The film took many years to come to fruition as studios doubted that a sequel, produced over a decade after the original, would find an audience
- In November 2009, Broken Lizard revealed that they had finished three drafts of the sequel's screenplay and that independent financiers had agreed to finance the movie. They also revealed that the character of Captain O'Hagan was part of the screenplay and that actor Brian Cox was planning on returning to the role
- In Jan 2009, Soter said in an interview that the plot of the sequel would be: "we are on the Canadian border. And in reality, what has happened is that the government has found places where the markers were wrong.... We are enlisted because they have to send someone there to help make it part of the U.S. territory now. And we are surrounded by all of these Canadian people that aren't happy about this. We essentially have to impose U.S. law on a bunch of Canadians."
- In 2009, They also revealed that the character of Captain O'Hagan was part of the screenplay and that actor Brian Cox was planning on returning to the role
- On March 24, 2015, Broken Lizard announced that they had received studio permission to film the sequel, but had to locate production funding themselves.
- On top of the raised \$4.7 million, Chandrasekhar was able to collect \$8 million more in private financing, and received a \$2.8 million tax rebate from Massachusetts, bringing the entire production budget of the film to \$13.5 million.
- Can we have an update on the crowdfunding prizes? Have you been to anyone's wedding yet, taken a trip to Colorado with a fan, gone to the ballpark, anything else?

CROWDFUNDING

- The Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign netted \$4.6 million from 54,000 donors.
- On March 24, 2015, Broken Lizard launched an Indiegogo campaign to raise \$2 million to produce the film. Just over 24 hours later, they had already surpassed their goal and the movie was greenlit.
- Just 14 hours after the funding window opened, Broken Lizard Industries had raised over 73% of necessary funds (\$1,459,446). The \$2,000,000 funding goal was reached just 26 hours after the window opened but contributions continued to be added in force. Large ticket perks were offered as incentives to get this funding including tickets to a real beerfest in Chicago, a producer title in the credits (\$10,000), a "director" listing (\$12,500), a speaking actor role (\$10,000), a trip to the ballpark with the five main actors (\$15,000), and even the patrol car that will be used in the filming of the movie (\$35,000) were all sold out within 12 hours of funding. This project is also, as of March 2016, #38 on the list of highest funded crowdfunding projects and is the #7 largest successfully-completed Indiegogo project; its campaign was completed on April 24
- For the campaign Broken Lizard teamed up with Fandango to offer tickets to the movie as a potential backer reward. Broken Lizard noted that they made this decision after noticing that many other crowdfunded films left backers feeling "ripped off" as they offered no financial compensation for them to see the movie in a theater

WRITING

- "We worked very hard on that movie. We wrote 37 drafts of that thing. It's a good movie."
-Chandrasekhar
- The guys met when they were 18 years old and have been writing together since
- "The writing meetings are fun. I mean certainly, we argue about what's a funnier joke, but we figure it out. Eventually, it's fine. And if we can keep making these movies, we're going to."

TOPICS/THEMES

- The plot follows the Super Troopers being called upon to set up a new Highway Patrol station when an international border dispute arises between the United States and Canada
- A theme Broken Lizard has explored a few times now is "cultures clashing" (example: in their movie Beerfest)
- Border dispute and themes of immigration

STORY

- Several years after the first film, the officers have been fired from the Spurbury Police Department after taking Fred Savage on a ride-along that resulted in his death.
- Farva (Heffernan) is now a construction supervisor, with Mac (Lemme) and Rabbit (Stolhanske) working for him. Thorny (Chandrasekhar) works in logging, and Foster (Soter) is living with his girlfriend and former coworker, Police Chief Hanson (Coughlan)
- Mac receives a call from his former boss, Captain O'Hagen (Cox), to gather the group and meet for a fishing trip in Canada.

- Once the group arrives, they find that O'Hagen's intention had been for them to have a meeting with Vermont Governor Jessman (Carter).
- She explains that during a recent land survey, it was discovered that land in Canada was originally designated for the U.S. Canada has agreed to hand over the land, and Gov. Jessman needs to set up a police department for take over from the Canadian Mounted Police in the region.
- She invites the group to become police officers again, with the promise that they will become full-time officers once again should they succeed at this task.
- At a reception for the police officers, they meet the town mayor, Guy Le Franc (Lowe) and cultural attaché, Genevieve Auboiss (Chriqui).
- The Americans are received poorly by the townspeople, who wish to remain Canadian.
- The next day, Rabbit and Mac accompany the Mounties on their patrol to meet the local townspeople, where they are attacked in Le Franc's strip club.
- Thorny and Foster are tasked with replacing metric road signs with their U.S.-equivalent measurements, and Farva is assigned as the dispatcher.
Thorny and Foster encounter several young children under the influence of drugs. They ask the kids to lead them to where they found the drugs, and arrive at an abandoned lake house where they encounter unmarked pills and counterfeit cell phones.
- The next day, the Canadian Mounties play a prank on the Vermont State Troopers by releasing a bear into their station. In retaliation, the State Troopers kidnap the Mounties, and release them in the woods.
- They then don Mountie uniforms, and attempt to discredit their Canadian counterparts by performing pranks on the people they pull over. However, their pranks are cut short when Le Franc reveals that he will use the serious crime of impersonating an officer to keep the territory from becoming American.
- The State Troopers, realizing that they will not be given their original jobs after failing at this task, intend to return to America. During a botched highway stop, Farva and Mac encounter another cache of drugs and cell phones, as well as assault rifles.
- The troopers realize that these items are all more valuable in the U.S. than in Canada, and that someone has been planting these items around the town in preparation for the turnover to the U.S, to avoid having to cross the border.
- Back at the station, Genevieve, who has been flirting with Rabbit, arrives, and the two begin to have sex, only to be attacked and carried-off. The rest of the State Troopers learn about Rabbit's kidnapping by reviewing his dash-cam, and suspect the Canadian Mounties are involved.
- Using a cell-phone triangulator on the counterfeit phones, the State Troopers arrive at a sawmill. They encounter the Mounties, only to realize the Mounties had suspected the State Troopers as the drug smugglers.
- Guy Le Franc reveals himself as the leader of the drug smuggling operation, and has captured Genevieve and Rabbit and tied them to a board on saw.
- Genevieve reveals herself to be a double-agent working for the Le Franc, and the groups engage in a shooting match. The State Troopers and Mounties are successful, and Rabbit is rescued.

- Le Franc and his employees are arrested, and Genevieve reveals that she is part of the Ontario Provincial Police and working undercover.
- Gov. Jessman arrives to congratulate the officers in their success. At a press conference, the Canadian Mounties congratulate their American counterparts, and give praise for their efforts.
- Gov. Jessman announces that, due to the hidden contraband, the territory will remain in Canadian control for the time being, causing both nations' officers to insult each other and begin brawling.
- In a mid-credits scene, body-cam footage is shown from the ill-fated ride along with Fred Savage. The police officers have been called to rescue a cat out of a tree.
- After Fred Savage learns that their job entails then calling the fire department for the rescue, he begins climbing the tree to rescue the cat. He falls out of the tree, but manages to land, only to be hit and killed by the arriving firetruck.

CAST:

"Broken Lizard" Chandrasekhar, Soter, Lemme, Stolhanske, Heffernan

- Originally called Charred Goosebeak
- The group formed at Colgate University in 1990 when Jay Chandrasekhar was asked by a student theater director to put together a comedy show
- All are also members of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity
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- After graduation, the members reunited in New York City and spent the next few years performing at various clubs, mostly Greenwich Village mainstay The Duplex, under the name "Broken Lizard"
- They collaborate on the screen-writing, acting and productions of their films, with Chandrasekhar and Heffernan being the primary directors; the team however does not have any single leader and they work collaboratively

Jay Chandrasekhar as Senior Trooper Arcot "Thorny" Ramathorn,

- A veteran of the Vermont State Police who is the second-in-command of his barracks
- Directed *The Dukes of Hazzard* for Warner Bros., Broken Lizard was offered a deal with the studio. This relationship resulted in Broken Lizard's third feature, 2006's *Beerfest*
- Chandrasekhar authored a book called 'Mustache Shenanigans: Making Super Troopers and Other Adventures in Comedy'

Paul Soter as Trooper Jeff Foster

- Arguably the most calm and reserved Trooper of the department
- Known from *Supertroopers*, *Beerfest*, *Club Dread* and *Dukes of Hazard*
- Paul Soter's directorial debut was in the 2007 movie *Watching the Detectives*

Steve Lemme as Trooper MacIntyre "Mac" Womack

- Known from *Supertroopers*, *Beerfest*, *Club Dread*, *Puddle Cruiser* and *The Slammin' Salmon*

- The Trooper who enjoys pranks the most

Erik Stolhanske as Trooper Robert "Rabbit" Roto

- Known from *Supertroopers*, *Beerfest*, *Club Dread*, *Puddle Cruiser*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and *Six Feet Under*
- A rookie State Trooper
- Born in Minnesota, his last name is ancient Swedish, literally meaning "steel glove"
- Can best be described as the most poignant of the Lizards
- He was born without a fibula and has had a prosthetic right leg his entire life
- He was also featured in the original P90X workout series' plyometrics segment

Kevin Heffernan as Trooper Rodney "Rod" Farva

- A fat, loud, obnoxious and arrogant radio operator and occasional patrolman
- Kevin is a lawyer and has passed the bar in NY and CT
- Heffernan directed *The Slammin' Salmon*
- Heffernan co-wrote the screenplay to the 2005 film *On the One* and also acted in the films *Sky High* and *Strange Wilderness*

Brian Cox as Captain John O'Hagen

- Returned to play Captain O'Hagen, the fatherly commander of his Vermont State Trooper barracks
- Known from *The Bourne Identity*, *The Bourne Supremacy*, *Braveheart* and *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*

TRIVIA

- Charred Goosebeak continues to exist at Colgate to this day
- Heffernan's mom and dad were both in the first *Supertroopers* movie, they were the couple that Farva pulled over and said "License and registration, chickenf***er"

DIRECTING Jay Chandrasekhar

- This is the sixth feature film Chandrasekhar has directed with the same crew
- Directed *Dukes of Hazzard* movie but has found greater success directing episodes of popular shows such as *Community*, *Arrested Development*, *New Girl*, *Psyche* and others

PRODUCTION

- Movie began shooting on October 23, 2015
- Both "Super Troopers," one and two, were shot in 28 days.
- Was filmed completely in Massachusetts
- On a Funemployment Radio episode May 26, 2016, Jay Chandrasekhar confirmed that a small test segment of the film has been shot
- In September 2016, it was announced that Emmanuelle Chriqui, Tyler Labine, Lynda Carter, Rob Lowe, Will Sasso, and Hayes MacArthur joined the cast.

- On August 2, 2017, Broken Lizard announced, via their website, that they had finished post-production on the film.

EDITING/VFX Spencer Houck

- Has worked on *Grace and Frankie*, *Marry Me*, *Bad Teacher* and *Community*

SOUND/MUSIC Eagles of Death Metal

- Eagles of Death Metal, a 2-person group, that does not play death metal. They chose their name as a joke
- They are an American rock band from Palm Desert, California, formed in 1998
- Founded by Jesse Hughes (vocals, guitar) and Josh Homme (drums)
- Soundtrack includes:
 - Blinded By the Light - Eagles of Death Metal
 - Got the Power - Eagles of Death Metal
 - Saturday Night Blues - Natural Child
 - S*** Makes the Flowers Grow - Folk Uke
 - Penal Colony - Dog Trumpet
 - Big Bear - Steak
 - Easy Eating - Naked Giants
 - Shasta Beast - Eagles of Death Metal
 - Baby, I Won't Do You No Harm - The Sheepdogs
 - If You Ain't Got the Money - Who Are Those Guys
 - Lyin' - Charlie Patton's War
 - Complexity - Eagles of Death Metal
 - All My Friends - Blackout Party
 - Secret Plans - Eagles of Death Metal

PROMOTION

- “The crowd-funding was sort of the beginning of the advertising campaign really”
-Chandrasekhar
- Tagline: “The time is meow”
- There were 2 trailers released

BOX OFFICE

- In the United States and Canada, *Super Troopers 2* was released alongside *I Feel Pretty* and *Traffik*, and was originally projected to gross around \$6 million from 2,038 theaters in its opening weekend.
- However after making \$7.9 million on its first day (including \$1.35 million from Thursday night previews), weekend estimates were raised to \$16 million.
- It went on to open to \$15.2 million, finishing fourth behind *A Quiet Place*, *Rampage* and *I Feel Pretty*, and nearly matching the \$18.5 million the original film made in its entire theatrical run

RECEPTION

- RT Critic Review: 35% / RT Audience Score: 72%
- IMDB: 7.1/10
- Cinemascore: B+
- “[Critics] don't like that kind of movie, you know? It's that kind of movie that seems to bug them. And all us comedy filmmakers, we have to suffer the brunt of that for some reason. But that's the way it goes.” -Chandrasekhar
- It received generally negative reviews from critics, who criticized the rehashed and lazy jokes and called it "a long-awaited disappointment"
- “Part of the appeal of the sequel is that, well, it doesn't really feel like a sequel. The original script for Super Troopers had the goal of a joke every six seconds. Super Troopers 2 maintains that goal without having to rely on callbacks from the first film, allowing for a true standalone comedy despite its sequel status.” Patrick Baker, Task & Purpose
- Variety magazine reported 4/21 that “Super Troopers 2” “outdoes expectations”
- The New York Times, though, which many see as the news-site equivalent of a wine snob drinking with his pinkie in the air, thought enough of “Super Troopers 2” to make it a “Critic's Pick,” calling the sequel “very funny indeed.”
- “Character-wise, not much has changed for any of the returning crew, but really would you have it any other way? Brian Cox once again steals the show with his portrayal as the Captain forced to deal with a terrible police force. The supporting cast is mostly made up of French-Canadian actors who make the setting feel more believable but can also be a bit too stereotypical for my liking.” -Anthony Marzano

SEQUEL/LEGACY

- “If the movie does well and the studio wants to make three, I would imagine we would be psyched to do that.” - Chandrasekhar
- Chances are good that the box office success will go a long way toward making “Super Troopers” into a trilogy. That would no doubt please fans of the franchise that has only grown in popularity thanks to endless sharing of the original film's DVD by collegiate stoners everywhere in the 17 years since the movie's release.
- A third “Super Troopers” would also irritate the nation's film critics to no end. The Los Angeles Times calls “Super Troopers 2” “stale, unfunny and offensive.”