

risky business train scene

Risky Business Train Scene: A Deep Dive into the Iconic Moment

The iconic train scene in Paul Verhoeven's *Risky Business* remains a cultural touchstone, even decades after its release. This scene, featuring a young Tom Cruise showcasing youthful exuberance and a reckless disregard for consequences, has cemented its place in cinematic history. This article will delve into the scene's impact, analyzing its cinematography, its contribution to the film's narrative, its cultural influence, and the lasting legacy it holds in popular culture. We'll explore why this seemingly simple scene resonates so deeply with audiences and continues to be discussed and referenced even today.

Article Outline:

- I. The Scene's Context within the Film: Establishing Joel's character arc and the film's overall themes.
- II. Cinematography and Visual Style: Analyzing the camera angles, lighting, and overall aesthetic choices.
- III. Music and Sound Design: Examining the role of Bob Seger's "Old Time Rock and Roll" and its impact on the scene's energy.
- IV. Thematic Significance: Exploring the themes of freedom, rebellion, and the consequences of risky behavior.
- V. Cultural Impact and Legacy: Discussing the scene's lasting influence on popular culture and its enduring appeal.

I. The Scene's Context within the Film:

The Train Scene as a Turning Point in Joel's Journey

The train scene represents a crucial turning point in Joel Goodsen's character arc. Before this moment, Joel is presented as a relatively sheltered and responsible teenager. The scene marks his complete abandonment of his previous inhibitions, symbolizing his embrace of a carefree, albeit risky, lifestyle.

Setting the Stage for Future Events

This pivotal moment sets the stage for the increasingly chaotic and unpredictable events that unfold in the rest of the film. Joel's actions on the train directly impact his subsequent relationships and decisions, leading to both hilarious and precarious situations.

II. Cinematography and Visual Style:

Dynamic Camera Work

The scene employs dynamic camera work, including handheld shots and quick cuts, that mirror Joel's exhilaration and the energy of the moment. This creates a sense of immediacy and involvement for the viewer.

Use of Lighting and Color

The lighting and color palette enhance the scene's overall mood. The vibrant colors and bright lighting emphasize Joel's carefree attitude and the excitement of his actions.

Point-of-View Shots

The use of point-of-view shots places the audience directly within Joel's experience, allowing us to share in his thrill and reckless abandon. This intimate perspective strengthens the emotional connection between the viewer and the character.

III. Music and Sound Design:

The Power of "Old Time Rock and Roll"

The iconic use of Bob Seger's "Old Time Rock and Roll" perfectly complements the scene's energy and reinforces the feeling of liberation and rebellion. The music elevates the scene from a simple act of youthful exuberance to a powerful moment of self-discovery.

Sound Effects and Atmosphere

The sound design, including the sounds of the train and the surrounding environment, further immerses the viewer in the scene, enhancing the overall impact.

IV. Thematic Significance:

Exploring Themes of Freedom and Rebellion

The train scene is a powerful exploration of themes of freedom, rebellion, and youthful exuberance. Joel's actions are a direct rejection of societal expectations and a celebration of uninhibited self-expression.

Consequences of Risky Behavior

However, the scene also subtly hints at the potential consequences of such risky behavior. While initially exhilarating, Joel's actions ultimately contribute to the escalating complications in his life. The carefree attitude has a price, foreshadowing the challenges he faces later.

Themes of Innocence and Experience

This scene marks a clear transition between innocence and experience in Joel's life. The carefree dancing and celebratory atmosphere soon give way to the more serious and complex events to follow.

V. Cultural Impact and Legacy:

Enduring Popularity and Memes

The scene's enduring popularity is evident in its frequent appearances in popular culture, from memes to television references. It has transcended its original context to become a symbol of youthful rebellion and carefree abandon.

A Cultural Touchstone

The Risky Business train scene serves as a cultural touchstone, reflecting and shaping the perceptions of teenage rebellion and self-discovery for generations.

Influence on Film and Television

Its stylistic influence can be seen in subsequent films and television shows, demonstrating its lasting impact on cinematic storytelling and visual aesthetics.

Conclusion:

The train scene in Risky Business is more than just a memorable moment in a coming-of-age film; it's a carefully crafted sequence that encapsulates the film's themes, showcases exceptional filmmaking, and leaves a lasting impact on popular culture. Its success lies in the perfect blend of cinematography, music, and narrative, creating a powerful and enduring cinematic experience. The scene's lasting legacy proves its enduring appeal and its place as a pivotal moment in cinematic history.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

What song plays during the Risky Business train scene? Bob Seger's "Old Time Rock and Roll" is the iconic song featured.

Why is the Risky Business train scene so famous? The scene's popularity stems from its energetic choreography, memorable music, and its representation of youthful freedom and rebellion.

What is the significance of the train setting? The train represents a journey into adulthood and a release from the constraints of Joel's previous life.

Did Tom Cruise do his own dancing in the scene? Yes, Tom Cruise performed the dance himself, adding to the scene's authenticity and energy.

Related Keywords:

Risky Business, Tom Cruise, Old Time Rock and Roll, Train Scene, 80s Movies, Coming-of-Age Film, Iconic Movie Scene, Cinematic History, Cultural Touchstone, Film Analysis, Movie Soundtrack, Rebellion, Youthful Exuberance, Cinematography, Visual Style, Filmmaking Techniques, Popular Culture, Cultural Impact, Movie Memes.

risky business train scene: *Risky Business* William D. Romanowski, 2017-07-28 The role of motion pictures in the popularity of rock music became increasingly significant in the latter twentieth century. Rock music and its interaction with film is the subject of this significant book that re-examines and extends Serge Denisoff's pioneering observations of this relationship. Prior to Saturday Night Fever rock music had a limited role in the motion picture business. That movie's success, and the success of its soundtrack, began to change the silver screen. In 1983, with Flashdance, the situation drastically evolved and by 1984, ten soundtracks, many in the pop/rock genre, were certified platinum. Choosing which rock scores to discuss in this book was a challenging task. The authors made selections from seminal films such as The Graduate, Easy Rider, American Grafitti, Saturday Night Fever, Help!, and Dirty Dancing. However, many productions of the period are significant not because of their success, but because of their box office and record store failures. Risky Business chronicles the interaction of two major mediums of mass culture in the latter twentieth century. This book is essential for those interested in communications, popular culture, and social change.

risky business train scene: *Deforming American Political Thought* Michael J. Shapiro, 2016-02-19 *Deforming American Political Thought* offers an alternative to the dominant American historical imagination, treating issues that range from the nature of Thomas Jefferson's vision of an egalitarian nation to the persistence of racial inequality. Presenting multifaceted arguments that transcend the myopic scope of traditional political discourses, Michael J. Shapiro summons disparate disciplines and genres – architecture, crime stories, novels, films, and jazz/blues music (among others) to provide approaches to the comprehension of diverse facets of American political thought from the founding to the present. The book's various investigations disclose that there have always been dissenting voices, articulated in diverse genres of expression that cast doubt on the moral purpose and exceptionalism of the American mind. This highly anticipated updated second edition features a preface focusing on aesthetic theory and the contributions of artistic genres for political analysis, and a completely new chapter on critical thinking about the US western and urban encounters afforded by the two HBO series, *Deadwood* and *The Wire* respectively.

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essence of American political thought.

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of American corporate life and invests it with a passion and sympathy that is entirely unexpected.” —The Seattle Times “Among the year’s best.” —The Boston Globe “Baker writes with appealing charm . . . [He] clowns and shows off . . . rambles and pounces hard; he says acute things, extravagant things, terribly funny things.” —Los Angeles Times Book Review “Wonderfully readable, in fact gripping, with surprising bursts of recognition, humor and wonder.” —The Washington Post Book World

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2024-03-12 From an award-winning author, this provocative novel tells an emotionally gripping story about friendship, family, and transgender awakening in a working-class American town. It's the summer of 1984 in Swaffham, Massachusetts, when Mel (short for Melanie) meets Sylvia, a tough-as-nails trans woman whose shameless swagger inspires Mel's dawning self-awareness. But Sylvia's presence sparks fury among her neighbors and throws Mel into conflict with her mother and best friend. Decades later, in 2019, Max (formerly Mel) is on probation from his teaching job for, ironically, defying speech codes around trans identity. Back in Swaffham, he must navigate life as part of a fractured family and face his own role in the disasters of the past. Populated by a cast of unforgettable characters, *Some Strange Music Draws Me In* is a propulsive page turner about multiple electrifying relationships—between a working-class mother and her queer child, between a trans man and his right-wing sister, and between a teenager and her troubled best friend. Griffin Hansbury, in elegant, arresting, and fearless prose, dares to explore taboos around gender and class as he offers a deeply moving portrait of friendship, family, and a girlhood lived sideways. A timely and captivating narrative of self-realization amid the everyday violence of small-town intolerance, *Some Strange Music Draws Me In* builds to an explosive conclusion, illuminating the unexpected ways that difference can provide a ticket to liberation.

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NEARLY 16,000 ENTRIES INCLUDING 300+ NEW ENTRIES AND MORE THAN 13,000 DVD LISTINGS Summer blockbusters and independent sleepers; masterworks of Alfred Hitchcock, Billy Wilder, and Martin Scorsese; the timeless comedy of the Marx Brothers and Buster Keaton; animated classics from Walt Disney and Pixar; the finest foreign films ever made. This 2015 edition covers the modern era, from 1965 to the present, while including all the great older films you can't afford to miss—and those you can—from box-office smashes to cult classics to forgotten gems to forgettable bombs, listed alphabetically, and complete with all the essential information you could ask for. NEW: • Nearly 16,000 capsule movie reviews, with 300+ new entries • More than 25,000 DVD and video listings • Up-to-date list of mail-order and online sources for buying and renting DVDs and videos MORE: • Official motion picture code ratings from G to NC-17 • Old and new theatrical and video releases rated **** to BOMB • Exact running times—an invaluable guide for recording and for discovering which movies have been edited • Reviews of little-known sleepers, foreign films, rarities, and classics • Leonard's personal list of Must-See Movies • Date of release, running time, director, stars, MPAA ratings, color or black and white • Concise summary, capsule review, and four-star-to-BOMB rating system • Precise information on films shot in widescreen format • Symbols for DVDs, videos, and laserdiscs • Completely updated index of leading actors

risky business train scene: *Film and Television Locations* Doug Gelbert, 2024-10-09 It is often said that the greater Los Angeles area is the largest movie set in the world. Film and television series filming sites are, however, located all over the United States. This guidebook documents over 1500 locations where 1,106 movies and 48 television series have been filmed. Arranged by state and then alphabetically by movie title, each entry includes the year of release, the two main stars, a plot line and a description of the location. Filming sites located in Los Angeles are excluded. All sites are accessible to the public. The indexes make it possible to quickly locate a favorite star, favorite movie or favorite location.

risky business train scene: *New York*, 2004

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risky business train scene: *Movies and the Reagan Presidency* Chris Jordan, 2003-06-30 The 1980s were unique in both American history and the history of American cinema. It was a time when a United States president—a former B-movie actor and Cold War industry activist—served as a catalyst for the coalescence of trends in Hollywood's political structure, mode of production, and film content. Ronald Reagan championed a success ethos that recognized economic and moral

self-governance as the basis of a democratic society. His agenda of tax reform and industry deregulation simultaneously promoted the absorption of Hollywood's major studios into tightly diversified media conglomerates, and concentrations of ownership promoted the production and release of movies with maximum revenue potential. Indeed, the most commercially successful movies of the decade put forth the ideologies of WASP America, nuclear family self-sufficiency, and conspicuous consumption. Three genres in particular—the biracial buddy movie, the MTV music-video movie, and the yuppie movie—provide case studies of how Reagan-era cinema addressed issues of race, gender, and class in ways very much in tune with Reaganomics and the President's cultural policies. Author Chris Jordan provides a complete overview of both the influence of Reagan's presidency on the film industry and on the films themselves. Exploring 80s genres and movies with both a sociocultural and aesthetic eye, this book will be invaluable to historians, cinema scholars, and film buffs.

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risky business train scene: I Will Be Complete Glen David Gold, 2019-06-25 From the bestselling author of *Carter Beats the Devil* and *Sunnyside*, a big-hearted memoir told in three parts: about growing up in the wake of the destructive choices of an extremely unconventional mother.

“Extraordinary ... An audacious, boundary-shattering work.” —Los Angeles Times Glen David Gold’s earliest memories are of a childhood in which he had everything he could possibly want. But when his father’s fortune disappeared and his parents divorced, Gold fell out of his well-curated Southern California life. He was now growing up by the side of his increasingly erratic mother, among con men and get-rich schemes in ‘70s San Francisco. Gold brings all his gifts as a novelist to a kaleidoscope of his most formative experiences: his salvation at boarding school; his dream job at an independent bookstore; a punk rock riot; a romance with a femme fatale; the start of his writing career; and his estrangement from his mother, who moved in with her soul mate, a man who threatened to kill her. By turns heartbreaking and disarmingly funny, *I Will Be Complete* is one son’s journey, a series of love stories layered into a search for autonomy, and, ultimately, a way of letting go.

risky business train scene: Extreme Movie Stunts Don Rauf, 2019-12-15 Stunt performers in movies and television use their athletic ability to bring pulse-racing action to the screen. This book introduces readers to the thrilling world of stunt work, revealing how these daring acts are safely carried out for the screen. Readers learn about the technical aspects of the work, such as the equipment performers use, as well as their workout regimens to stay in shape for their physically demanding jobs. Readers also learn about the precautions taken to keep everyone safe on the set. This book will thrill anyone interested in what goes on behind the action scenes.

risky business train scene: *Death of a Boytoy* Samuel Jesse Johnson, 2015-02-12 The problem? I aint getting enough! (Its flat-out addicting, yall!) I already have a boy toy, yall, and he really is gorgeous, funny, charming, great in bed, well-hung (I saw that thread, LMAO), and is totally respectful of Mr. Web and our relationship. He is pretty much perfect in every way except one: he travels and is pretty much gone all the damn time. When we do get to play, its awesome, but I think Id like to have it a little more frequently. OK, OK, I would like to have it a lot more frequently (LOL). What can I say? Im a freak! So I am actively looking for another boy toy . . . or toys. Which brings me to my second problem: we are in the middle of freaking nowhere in the freaking Bible belt! What is a horny (but fairly picky) chick to do? I think Im screwed (or not screwed in this case). Any suggestions, comments, and just plain ol sympathy will be welcome (LOL).

risky business train scene: *Creative Toy Train Track Plans* Neil Besougloff, 2005 New themes to inspire your next 0 gauge layout--Cover.

risky business train scene: *The Films of Eric Rohmer* L. Anderst, 2014-03-13 Eric Rohmer was a key figure in French New Wave cinema. Contributors to this volume revisit, complicate, and upend accepted readings and interpretations of perennial Rohmerian topics including the important role of language in his films, the influence of the arts, depictions of gender and class, and the roles played by space and place in his films.

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