

New Dog

A heartwarming comedy
by Cris Vleck



When the rich uncle of a deadbeat slime ball dies, he discovers that - in order to get his inheritance - he has one year to convince his uncle's dearest friends to approve the transfer or lose the money to charity.

Summary

Last Will and Testament

Clay Presley's ship has finally come in and the timing could not be better. Clay owes a lot of money to the wrong people. He's been hiding out while avoiding his sadistically aggressive debt collectors. Thankfully, Clay's luck is about to change. His ridiculously wealthy uncle Joseph has just died and Clay is the only living relative. Clay finds himself unburdened by grief as he has been estranged for many years from the uncle that raised him.

Clay skips the funeral but makes it to the reading of the will. When Clay arrives, he is surprised to learn that the mansion he grew up in has been converted to a retirement home. Joseph was proud to create a home for his closest friends; ensuring they lived out their days in dignity. Clay navigates his way through a gauntlet of colourful characters on his way to the gathering for the reading, most of whom he knows from his childhood. Finally, the time to read the will arrives and Clay takes a break from filling his Amazon cart long enough to find out about his payday. Clay is horrified when he learns that his uncle Joseph has a few surprises in store for him. Joseph's final words reveal that he is disappointed in how Clay has turned out. He does not blame Clay; but rather, he blames himself. When Clay's parents died in a tragic car accident, Joseph rescued Clay and raised him as his own. Over the years, Joseph kept more of an eye on his company than he did on Clay. As a result, Clay had become lazy, self-centered and lacked ambition. This led to conflict between the two until Clay left and they became estranged. Joseph sees his death as an opportunity to help right the wrongs he created. Joseph's unusual will contains a list of stipulations designed to test Clay's character:

- First, Clay must manage the retirement home for which he will receive free room, board, and a modest salary.
- Second, he must obtain signed affidavits from each of the residents of the home testifying that they believe Clay is of good character.
- Third, Clay must manage the home for one year or until all the affidavits are signed; whichever comes first.
- Fourth, if Clay fails to obtain all the signatures, the money reverts to a trust fund to be used to manage the home. In essence, the money goes to the residents.

This infuriates Clay, but he is out of money and options. Clay begrudgingly stays on as manager to hide out and keep an eye on his money. It is not long before Clay starts to question whether or not the money is worth the soul crushing amount of schooling he's getting from this cantankerous group of elders. Clay has to become aware of his own flaws while navigating other obstacles such as; the forgetful Elsie constantly losing her signed affidavits, the tough Espirita whacking Clay with her cane, the brutally sarcastic Authur and the hyper-amorous Hideyoshi & Emiko sneaking off to the broom closet. What Clay cannot see is that they all have Clay's best interest at heart and want to see him become the man that his uncle knew he could be.

The big question is, can you teach a new dog old tricks?

Main Characters



Clay Presley

Josh Gad (not attached)

Clay's narcissism has caught up with him. He needs to find himself before the people he owes money to find him first. Clay is short tempered, lazy and self-centered.

Clay has no interest in the life lessons that his uncle's friends have to offer.

Fear and greed are the only two things keeping Clay from leaving the retirement home.

Clay's uncle Joseph was a wealthy inventor that had faith in Clay up until the day he died.

He took responsibility for how Clay turned out as an adult and wanted to make it right.

Through his will, Joseph is going to make sure that Clay puts his money to good use, but not before the money does good things for Clay.



Joseph J. Presley

Main Characters



Arthur Kind

Arthur was Joseph's business manager. His no-nonsense approach to business gave Joseph the freedom to focus on creating new products instead of being bogged down with running the company.

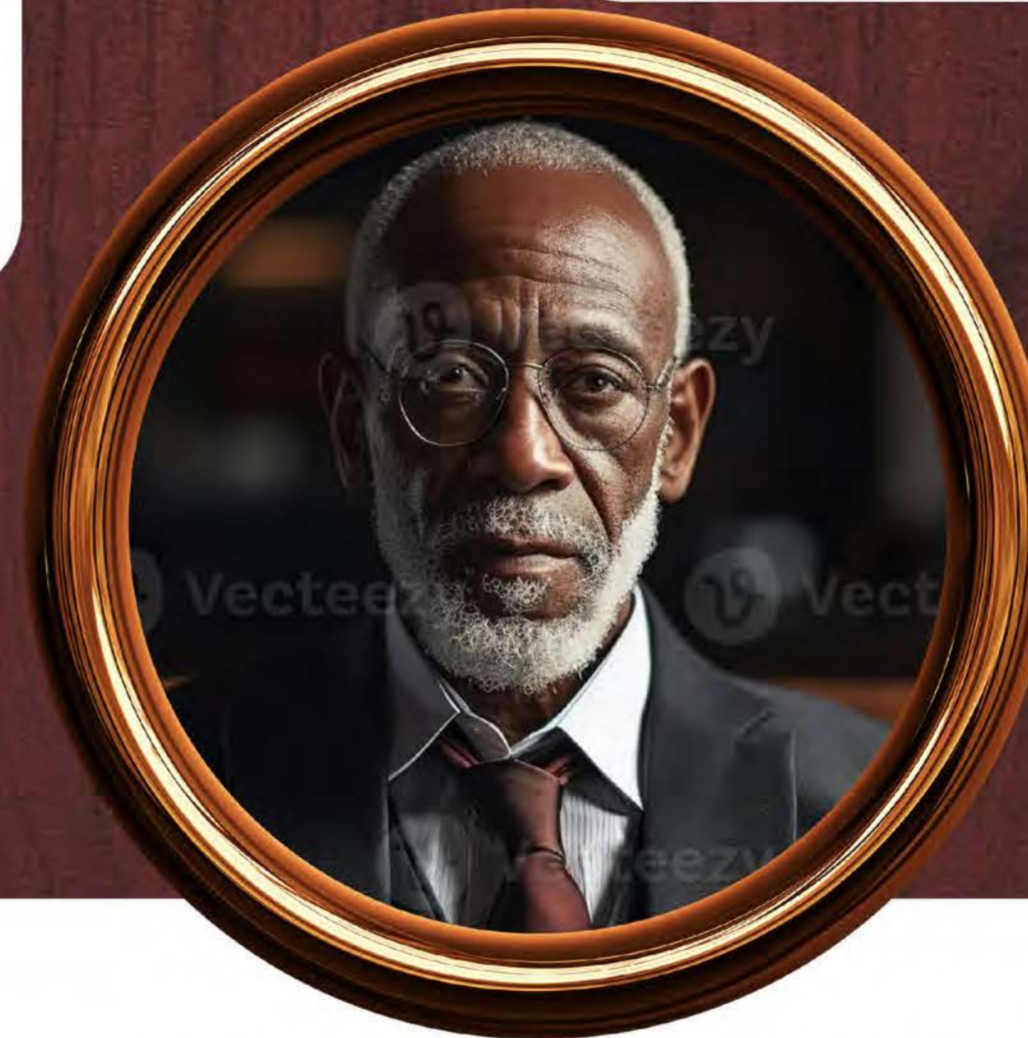
Arthur once had to fire Clay from the company. He disagrees with Joseph's decision to gamble his legacy on this waste of a human being.



Hideyoshi & Emiko Tabata

Hideyoshi was Joseph's electronics engineer. Emiko, his wife, spent long hours putting components together with her husband in the lab. She did not work for the company but the couple is inseparable. Their Japanese culture keeps them from causing a scene, so they keep mostly to themselves.

They are also still very active sexually and often lock themselves in rooms about the house when they are feeling frisky. Unfortunately for Clay, he is ususally the one to discover them.



Hamilton William Farr

Hamilton is Joseph's attorney. He is slow to anger and comes loaded with wisdom. He treats Clay with respect even though Clay often does not reciprocate. Hamilton understands Joseph's goal for Clay and knows that they are running a marathon and not a race. He knows he has more patience than Clay has perseverance. If Hamilton can't reason with Clay then he knows he can outlast him.

Elsie Baxter

Elsie was Joseph's personal assistant for decades. She knew Joseph better than anyone. When she wasn't being protective of Joseph she was kind, gentle, and loving. She has faith in Clay simply because Joseph did. Unfortunately, Elsie cannot advocate for Clay because she has been slipping away for over a year due to dementia.



Espirita Buccini

Espirita started as Joseph's head maid and became the manager of the house. Eventually, she oversaw the maintenance of the company head-quarters. She is tough and has a firm grasp on the concept of justice. She has decided that Clay needs a healthy dose of discipline. When Clay's attitude gets out of line she lets him know with a whack of her cane.



Comparables



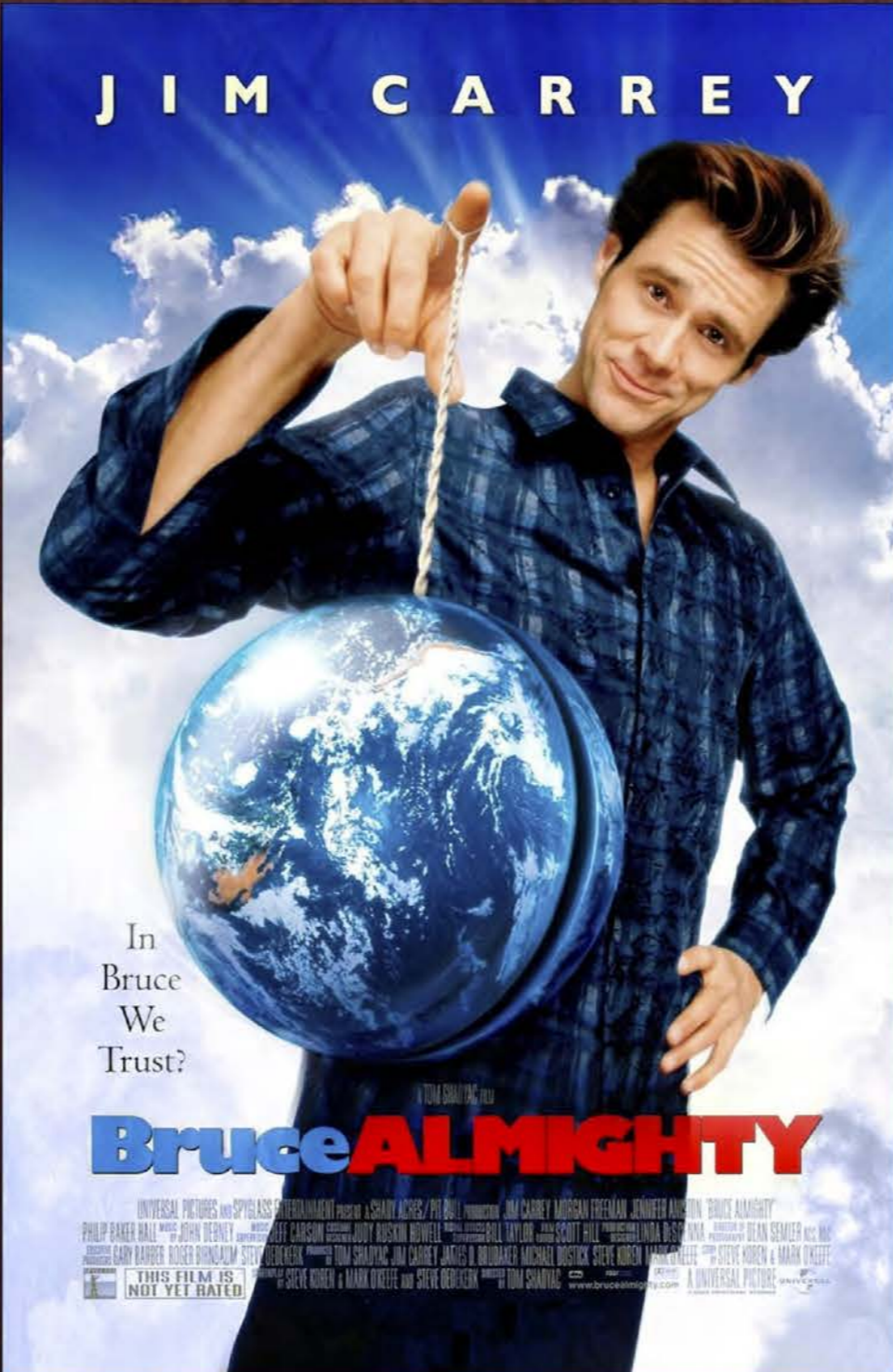
Secondhand Lions
(similar storyline)
Budget
\$30,000,000

Worldwide gross
\$48,260,279



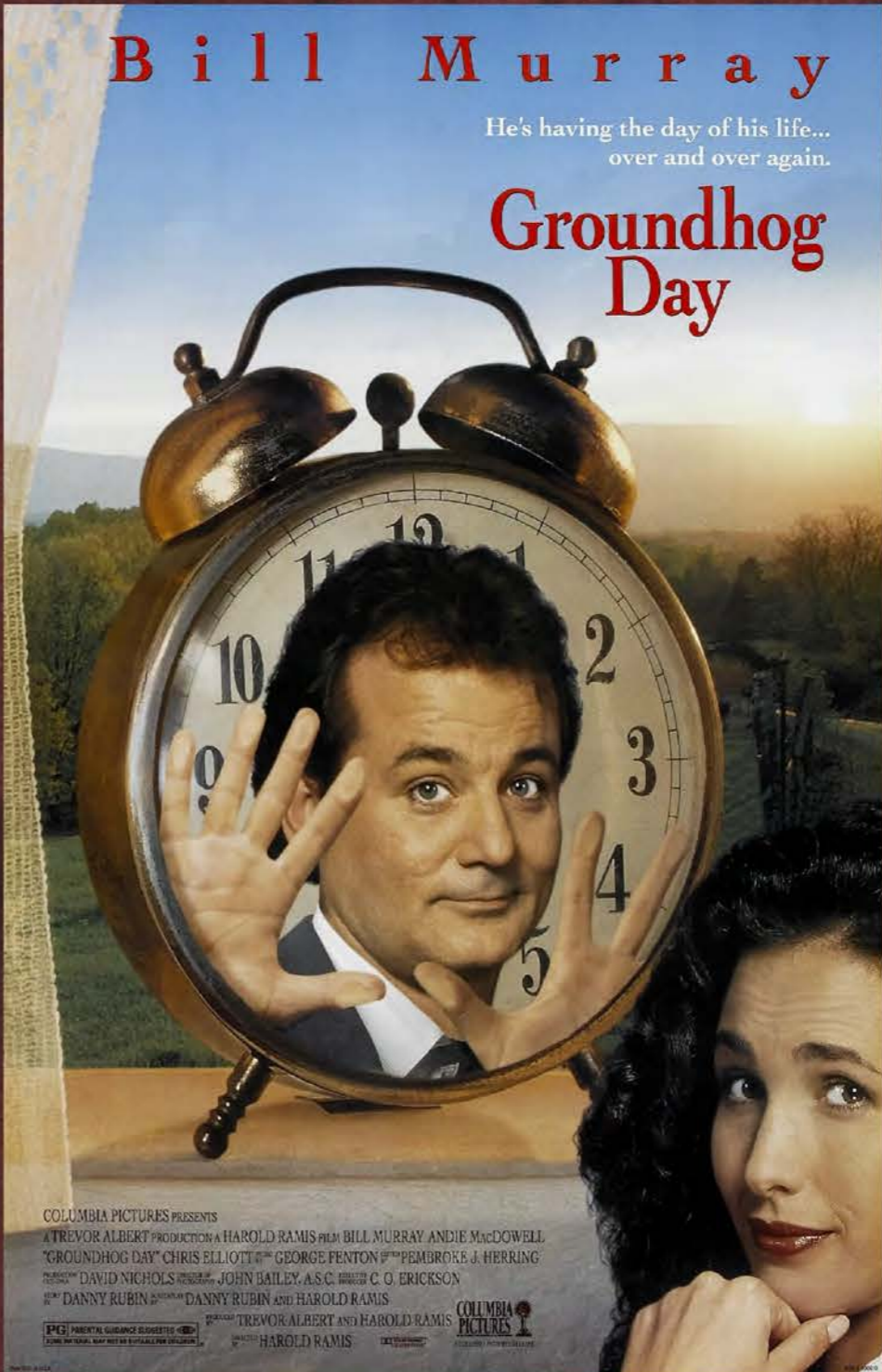
Driving Miss Daisy
(similar storyline)
Budget
\$7,500,000

Worldwide gross
\$145,793,296



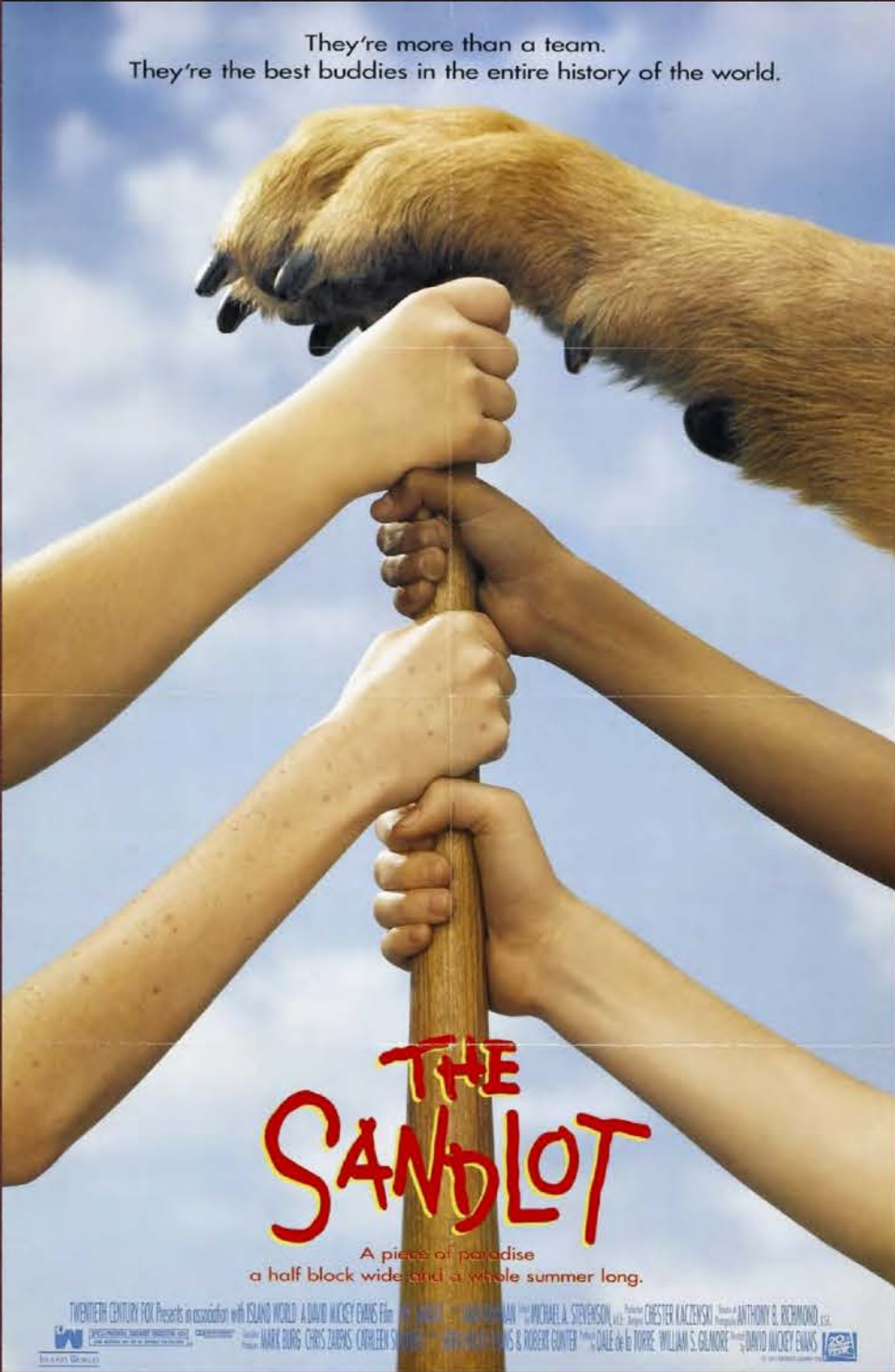
Bruce Almighty
(self discovery)
Budget
\$81,000,000

Worldwide gross
\$484,592,874



Groundhog Day
(self discovery)
Budget
\$14,600,000

Worldwide gross
\$71,108,778



The Sandlot
(comedy tone)
Budget
\$7,000,000

Worldwide gross
\$34,348,443