

## Pitch Perfect 2 Hits Sour Note

By Paula Tudor

Let me preface this by saying that I have seen Pitch Perfect a number of times, an embarrassing number of times to be precise; however it is a prime example of a movie that should not have a sequel. It left no significant loose ends that needed tying up, no unanswered questions, and no real story that demanded continuation. It was entertaining, effortlessly comical, and most importantly it had heart. That is why it was so successful. So it's not surprising that the studios would want to capitalize on this success by making a sequel. They certainly didn't lose any money by doing so. The movie opened May 15<sup>th</sup> and earned almost \$70 million in its first weekend. From a business standpoint this was obviously a good investment. Creatively, well, that is a different matter entirely.

My expectations for Pitch Perfect 2 were already pretty low before I ever stepped inside the theater. I knew it would be difficult for it to meet the standards set by the first movie, but I hoped it would be a quality film nonetheless. I was disappointed.

If I had never seen the first Pitch Perfect I might have thought the sequel was a fun, entertaining film. As it is though Pitch Perfect 2 failed to recapture the magic of its predecessor. The filmmakers certainly tried. The problem is they seem to have tried a little too hard. Pitch Perfect 2 essentially takes all the elements from the first film, jumbles them up, and regurgitates them. The result is one mess of a movie with predictable plot points and vaguely familiar characters. The comedic aspects of the movie, of which there are few, were incredibly forced. Everything that was funny about the first film became awkwardly lame moments in the second, moments that not even this talented cast could salvage.

Almost everyone from the first film is back in Pitch Perfect 2. The Becca character takes a back seat to a new Barden Bella recruit, affectionately called "Legacy," a reference to her mother's days as a Bella. Becca, meanwhile, finds herself venturing into new territory, interning at a recording studio, as she tries to lead the Bellas to victory in an International a cappella competition. A previous event made it impossible for them to compete at the collegiate level. Jesse, Becca's boyfriend, and leader of the Treblemakers, who make only one appearance in the film, now serves as little more than a cheerleader for Becca. Bumper now works for campus security and sings with the "old dudes" sans Donald Faison. There are also cameos from well-known journalists sprinkled throughout the film; something I can only surmise was a cheap attempt at good reviews.

If you were a fan of the first Pitch Perfect, I am sure nothing I have said will sway you from catching the sequel. It might be in your best interest to wait a few months though so you don't have to pay movie theater prices. In addition, the more money

this one makes at the box office, the more likely we are to get another Pitch Perfect, the prospect of which is a ca-awful.

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