

# “Blockers”

By Helen Lutz

Oh yes, prom night ... the dress, the hair, the corsage, the tux, the limo, the dinner, the dance – what memories. Let’s not forget the other side of prom night with the spiked punch, wild parties and ‘getting lucky.’



Prom night dances on to theater screens everywhere in Kay Cannon’s new film “Blockers” as we first meet three young ladies who have been best friends their entire lives; Julie (Kathryn Newton), Kayla (Geraldine Viswanathan) and Sam (Gideon Adlon). All are going to prom. Julie is crazy about her good looking boyfriend Austin (Graham Phillips) and has decided that prom night will be ‘the night’ ... the night when she becomes a woman. In discussing her decision with her friends, the three BFFs make a ‘sex pact’ to all lose their virginity on prom night. Nice thought, BUT do the other girls have hot boyfriends as well? Oh well – it doesn’t matter, a ‘sex pact’ is a ‘sex pact,’ isn’t it?

When making a pact of this nature with friends, it might be better to do it in person instead of a live chat on computers. Just what could possibly go wrong should Julie’s single mom, Lisa (Leslie Mann) happen to accidentally come across the open chat while looking for something in Julie’s room? Totally aghast, she must contact the other girls’ parents right away; they must put a stop to the deflowering of their babies on prom night!

Lisa turns to Kayla’s father Mitchell (John Cena) letting him in on the girls’ plan. Mitchell is an over-protective, sentimental, stay-at-home type guy who cries at the drop of a hat as he watches his little girl grow up while Kayla’s mother is a successful, down to earth doctor. Kayla’s date of choice for the prom, Connor (Miles Robbins), comes across a laid back ‘it’s all good’ kind of guy with a love for cooking – especially cooking with added ‘ingredients’ for that extra special kick!

Lisa and Mitchell end up having to include Sam’s dad Hunter (Ike Barenholtz) who could be described in “Webster’s” as a ‘Loser.’ Nothing has gone right for him. Since the divorce his daughter Sam has less and less to do with him for good reason, he is pretty annoying. The three band together on a seek and destroy mission to end their daughters’ pact which places them in some more than awkward situations to say the least (butt chugging – really ... really?!?!).

“Blockers” receives a hard ‘R’ rating since from start to finish it is full of obscene and raunchy bathroom humor. The parental escapades are funny in places; however, most of the gags are over the top slapstick Keystone Kopish silliness with a good dose of rude and crude thrown in for good measure. Meanwhile, the girls’ saving grace is that they end up showing that they’re responsible adult young ladies without any parental intervention.

I’ve found that whenever Seth Rogan’s hand is in a movie (he’s one of the producers) it usually proves to be over the top nasty to include full frontal male nudity – funny gag, not necessary. Of course, we do have an additional dose of political style Hollywood correctness with Kayla coming from a bi-racial family and Sam being a closet gay; the new Hollywood ‘normal.’

“Blockers” reverses the old trend of the guy ‘getting lucky’ putting the girls in the position of control which might make the film less attractive to the younger adult guys and even less attractive to the gals. Clearly, I’m not the demographic for the film; however, on a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give “Blockers” ... ONE HART, and that’s being generous.