LET US NOW PRAISE

The Biggest
Movie Dicks

BY JOHN SELLERS
Billy Zabka achieves supreme dickness as Chas in 1986's Back to School.
Don’t be a dick!

You know the guy: He’s that cocky, humorless, obscenely rich jerk-off. He’s the blond-haired blue blood who no one seems to realize is a total douche bag. He’s got the beautiful girl (whom he flagrantly cheats on), and because of the dollar signs attached to his name, he has her father, too. He’s ungracious, undeserving, and unredeemable, a cretin who rejoices in making life hell for the little people. And yet you love watching the guy.

Call him the Movie Dick—a staple of so many 80s films and several in the decades to follow. And the reason we love him is simple: We know what’s coming to him. We can sit back and revel in every atomic wedgie he gives and every withering stare he shoots because we know that, well, atomic wedgies are hilarious. And yet, somehow, we know that sooner or later, in a way that will be unspeakably satisfying to us, he will get his ass handed to him. And his end is as hard as possible—facedown in horseshit, perhaps, or via a well-placed kick to the head—because it is simple wish fulfillment. These guys are stand-ins for all of the entitled, self-satisfied snobs we’ve ever had to put up with. But chances are those real-life guys never got dicked over; and if they did, it was way too late, when you weren’t around to see that they’re now middle-aged and balding and their stocks have plunged and their wives are screwing the gardener and their kids have turned out to be worse than they ever were. Here now, a salute to all those guys we love to hate.

The Dickhead Dozen

11
Micheal Bowen as Tommy
Valley Girl, 1983
His Look: Bowl-cut blond hair, tucked-in red polo shirt with collar turned up, overly tight corduroy pants.
Why He’s a Dick: Just minutes after pawning the naked breasts of the class slut, he sucker punches goofy punk Nicolas Cage for talking to his ex-girlfriend.
Defining Line: Doesn’t have one. Too dumb.
His Downfall: As if wearing a pink tuxedo to the prom weren’t enough, Jason uh, Tommy gets kicked in the nuts by Cage and then beaten up in front of the student body.

10
Billy Zabka as Chas
Back to School, 1986
His Look: Flowing, feathered blond-hair helmet accessorized with pushed-up shades, leather jacket, and skinny tie.
Why He’s a Dick: One of the stars of the diving team at a California university, he’s convinced of his own incredible awesomeness. On a date at his frat house, he bad-mouths nerdy Jason Melon, the former towel boy turned teammate. Jason, of course, has a crush on Chas’s date.
Defining Line: At the big final meet, he sees Jason and ex-beau, “Get this, towel boy. No matter what you think, you will always be a crude, obnoxious, nouveau riche little plebe.”
His Downfall: Scared to perform his team’s make-or-break dive, Chas takes a cramp. To which Jason deadpans, “It’s probably menstrual.” Laughter—not to mention Rodney Dangerfield in a bathing suit—ensues. And yes, Jason gets the girl.

12
James Spader as Steff
Pretty in Pink, 1986
His Look: Feathered-back blond hair, Porsche, baggy cotton suit, constipated glare.
Why He’s a Dick: He chews out his wealthy best friend for stooping to date a misfit (Molly Ringwald) who recently shot down his own advances.
Defining Line: “If you want your little piece of low-grade ass, fine, take it. But if you do, you’re not going to have a friend.”
His Downfall: At the prom, he approaches his best friend, who says, “She thinks you’re ehh, And deep down, you know she’s right.” Stunned silence.
CRAIG KILBORN AS MARK // Old School, 2003

HIS LOOK: Exactly like Craig Kilborn

WHY HE'S A DICK: Kilborn plays the slick, sarcastic boyfriend of a perky single mother on whom shy, confused nice guy Luke Wilson has had a crush since high school. At a kid's birthday party, Wilson walks in on Mark feeling up a catering waitress in the bathroom.

DEFINING LINE: "What are you going to do, tell on me? You know you can't, buddy. It's your code. Okay? Guys don't tell on other guys. That's something chicks do. You're not a chick, are you? All right, good talk. I'll see you out there."

HIS DOWNFALL: During the closing-credit sequence, Mark is roaring through the countryside in his red Porsche 911, singing along to Whitesnake's "Here I Go Again," shades up, cig in his mouth. He loses control of the wheel, swerves off a narrow bridge into a stream, and lands on top of the movie's true villain, the college dean, played by Jeremy Piven, who's fly-fishing. The Porsche explodes.

07

MATTHEW GLAVE AS GLENN GUSSGLA // The Wedding Singer, 1998

HIS LOOK: Moussed brown hair, black Corvette convertible, Ray-Banes, shoulder-padded Armani jacket with sleeves rolled up worn over a wife-beater.

WHY HE'S A DICK: When his girlfriend, Amanda, catches him cheating, she dates lovable loser and semi-stalker Eric Stoltz. Hardy then lures Stoltz to a party so his boys can make him pay for asking out Amanda, whom he refers to as "my property."

DEFINING LINE: "Take him outside and kick the shit out of him."

HIS DOWNFALL: Hardy gets slapped in front of his friends by Amanda and has his mansion swarmed by the school's grasers and bangers. One of them lets Hardy know that "this party is about to become a historical fact."

09

CRAIG SHEFFER AS HARDY JENNS // Some Kind of Wonderful, 1987

HIS LOOK: Mussed brown hair, black Corvette convertible, Ray-Banes, shoulder-padded Armani jacket with sleeves rolled up worn over a wife-beater.

WHY HE'S A DICK: Hardy Jennings, who has a not-so-secret crush on Barrymore, is the bong-smoking, ass-to-the-ass-woman's-ass and brains to snot-simmering, overconfident, wannabe-bad boy. He's bong-smoking more than the other chicks as recent as last week.

DEFINING LINE: "After running into Sandler on the street, he says, "Hey, ass-wipe...you've gotta face facts: She'd rather go to bed with a real man, not some poor singing orphan."

HIS DOWNFALL: On a plane to Vegas, where he and Barrymore will be married (his idea), he loses her to Sandler in one of cinema's schmatzzer moments. The last we see of Glenn is his being violently shoved into a lavatory by one of Billy Idol's cronies.

THE MAKING OF A DICK

An, uh, Oral History

Not since the mid-'80s has a Movie Dick been so artfully conceived as Zachary "Sack" Lodge in Wedding Crashers. Here, the film's director, cowriter, casting director, and anti-star himself explain how Sack came to life in all his quail-hunting, fiancée-cheating, football-playing glory.

Steve Faber (cowriter): We were really sick of seeing these characters who are apparently nice but who you know have an agenda, and yet it's a matter of waiting around seventy minutes to find out what that agenda is.

David Dobkin (director): But he had to be someone that made you see why Claire is with him. So he still had to be likable.

Faber: Sack looks good on paper. He probably went to all the right schools. He's well-dressed. He's a good-looking guy. He doesn't have that sort of limousine-liberal work.

Lisa Beach (casting director): When David Dobkin sat us down and said what he was looking for, I said Bradley Cooper in mind, because there to several actors out there who have that ultimate wet-blanket sensibility. His sensibility is just so upper-crust.

East Coast blue bloods, Bradley Cooper (Sack): I switched to private school when I was a kid. There were a lot of guys like Sack. I always was in awe of them because they always got the women, which I never understood.

To me, they seemed very transparent. And yet you wanted to be around them much talk of act. We wanted the audience to say to themselves from the football game on, "God, what an asshole."

But you kind of like being around Sack, because you enjoy seeing the crazy shit he's going to do. That was my hope—that he wasn't as simple as the bad guy in The Karate Kid.

Faber: Even so, you want him destroyed. That's why that moment at the end when he gets punched at the church is so resonant for a lot of people.

Cooper: New women come up to me and say, "You were such an asshole! I can't believe what you did!" It's hilarious. I've had friends whose parents will say to them, "That's your friend? It's like, dude, it's just a flick!"
TED McGINLEY AS STAN GABLE
Revenge of the Nerds, 1984
HIs LOOK Blond, tan, athletically built, teeth whiter than the sun
WHY HE’S A DICK As the sweater-vest-wearing president of the Greek council and quarterback of the college football team, he torments a bunch of geeks just looking for peace, respect, and most important, a piece of ass.
DEFINING LINE “What are you looking at, nerd?”
HIS DOWNFALL Right after the nerds win the big interfraternity competition, Stan’s cheery sorority girlfriend dumps him for one of the nerds. Cue that obnoxious chortle.

10 REAL-LIFE GUYS WHO WOULD MAKE GREAT MOVIE DICKS

1. LLEYTON HEWITT Just look at him.
2. CHRISTIAN LAETTNER Former Duke basketball star; arrogant, cocky, smug white boy with a hairdo every prep-school brat devours for.
3. JON GRUDEN Ready-eyed, blond-haired head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers; destined for anger-management classes.
4. LACHLAN MURDOCH The richest of rich kids.
5. JOE SIMPSON Perpetually bronzed and well coiffed; loves to exert control over famous daughters, Jessica and Ashlee.
6. JULIAN CASABELLANS Spoiled, bratty, entitled, tantrum-throwing singer of the Strokes.
7. RICK FOX Former Laker; ex-husband of Vanessa Williams; quasi Jheri curl is worthy of a part in Conair to America.
8. RICK SALOMON Made famous in the Paris Hilton video; continues to be famous for being a grade-A schmuck.
9. ROGER CLEMENS Biggest bully in baseball for over twenty years.
10. GEORGE W. BUSH Where do we start?

05
ROBERT PRESCOTT AS COLE WHITTIER // Bachelor Party, 1984
HIS LOOK Blue blazer, V-neck sweater, khaki slacks, penny loafers, coiffed blond hair, and a bug-in-the-ass face
WHY HE’S A DICK Debby, played by Tawny Kitaen, is about to marry a clownish bus driver Rick (Tom Hanks), despite the objections of her wealthy parents. Her father enlists Cole, Kitaen’s sarcastic, lantern-jawed ex-boyfriend, to break them up ASAP, and he tells Cole to take no prisoners.
DEFINING LINE Cole attempts to broker a deal with Hanks (a common tactic of the Movie Dick). His final offer: “I’m willing to trade my new Porsche for Debbie—an even swap.”
HIS DOWNFALL Rick and his buddies ambush Cole, tie him up naked in a bedsheets, and dangle him from a window. After falling crack-first into the sunroof of a car containing two scared tourists, he steals a fake tuxedo shirt and plaid trousers from a gift store and kidnaps Debbie. Rick chases him down and bitcheslaps him before a live studio audience at a movie theater.

04
ERIO LA SALLE AS DARRYL JENKS // Coming to America, 1988
HIS LOOK Gleaming, Jheri curl, multicolored wool parka, smug grin, creepy mustache, bright red Corvette
WHY HE’S A DICK As the heir to the multibillion-dollar Soul Glo fortune, Darryl torments Eddie Murphy’s character, an African prince roughing it as a hardworking fast-food clerk in Queens. He also announces to friends and family that he and his girlfriend are engaged—before he’s even popped the question. The prince pines for the girlfriend.
DEFINING LINE Smirking at Murphy while at a Knicke game: “What kind of games do you play in Africa? Chase the monkey?”
HIS DOWNFALL After it is revealed that the prince is worth more than Soul Glo, the girlfriend’s father siccs the family dog on Darryl. He runs outside, gets caught in a rainstorm, and his Jheri curl winds up limp and droopy.

03
JAMES DAUGHTON AS GREG MARMALARD // National Lampoon’s Animal House, 1978
HIS LOOK Classic WASP—blue plaid blazer, obsequiously neat hair, and a buttery yellow MGB convertible.
He even smokes a pipe.
WHY HE’S A DICK As chairman of the Greek council at Faber College, Greg plots with the dean to pout the Delta fraternity, home to his jocky, playboy nemesis, Otter (Tim Matheson). Possibly still in the closet, Greg doesn’t believe in premarital intercourse, and he can’t get it up
when the campus hottie gives him a hand job. "Is it supposed to be this soft?," she asks.

DEFINING LINE Doesn’t really have one. Most of Greg’s arrogance is conveyed through his complete lack of humor and his glee as he watches a pledge, on all fours wearing white briefs, get paddled.

HIS DOWNFALL After being humiliated by the Delta at the big homecoming parade, Greg looks for revenge. He confronts Otter, who holds up his hand and says, "Look at my thumb." Greg looks—and gets punched in the nose. Gee he’s dumb. His ultimate fate, according to the credits: Raped in prison, 1974.

And the Number One Dick Is...

Billy Zabka AS Johnny Lawrence // The Karate Kid, 1984

Just as John Wayne is the undisputed king of the Western, Billy Zabka will always be “that total prick” from Back to School and The Karate Kid. It is his four-faced performance in the latter film, of course, that truly sets him apart from his cocky peers. His tan, athletic, blond good looks, paired with that smirky, smug facial expression—not to mention his unparalleled ability to spew lines like “You could’ve left well enough alone, could you, you little twerp? Well, now you’re gonna pay!”—made him the perfect choice to receive his very public comeuppance via a crane kick to the nose, courtesy of bullied wuss Ralph Macchio. Surprisingly, Zabka, now 40, has spent much of the past two decades playing good guys in a string of B movies you’ve never seen (Python 2, anyone?). He was even nominated for an Academy Award in 2003 for Most, an uplifting short film he cowrote and coproduced. Could it be that the ultimate bad guy has finally made good?

Congratulations—you’ve earned the top spot on our list. It’s a real honor. Why do you think you were cast as the bully? It’s beyond me. Prior to The Karate Kid, I did commercials—Kool-Aid, Pepsi, milk—and I had always been cast as the all-American nice guy. The funny turn is that now what I’m known for are these assholes. Has it affected your life? I spend a lot of time having to say, “Dude, I’m an actor.” People talk to me for a little bit and say, “Hey, you’re actually a cool guy. I thought you’d be somewhat of an asshole.” And if you’re really tired or don’t have time for them, they go, “See, you really are a dick!” It’s taxing. Ever get in a fight because of the roles you played? Back when I was maybe 19, guys would go, “I can kick your butt!” So I had a few showdowns. To my advantage, I learned martial arts, and what you really learn is not to fight. Were you ever a bully in real life? Not at all. Well, actually, I was a wrestler in high school. One tournament, I ended up in the finals. For two hours, I stalked this kid around the gym, just staring him down and trying to intimidate him before our match. But when they called us out for the match, another guy came out. I realized I was staring down the wrong guy.

Do people still recognize you? All the time. I had a birthday at the Friars Club the other night. I didn’t know that anyone knew I’d be there. But they made a huge deal of it. They sang “Happy Birthday,” and instead of saying my name they sang “Sweep the Leg, Johnny.” You didn’t win at the Oscars, but what was your speech going to be? I was going to say, “It’s nice to get an award for writing and producing. But what I really want to be is an actor.” And then I was going to go into a slow crane kick and just hold it there. I can’t help but point out that Billy Zabka is remarkably close to Bully Zabka.

Strangely, when I was a kid, my first acting job, at 5 years old, was a performance of The Three Little Pigs. They cast me as the Big Bad Wolf. The first thing I ever did, and right out of the gate I was “that guy.” How’d you do? Good. I blew the house down.