



Red One (2024)

Description

A Glittering Attempt That Falters Under Its Own Ambition

“Red One” (2024) sets out to revolutionize the holiday film genre by merging high-stakes action with festive magic. Directed by Jake Kasdan and headlined by Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans, the film boasts a hefty \$200 million budget and a [star-studded cast](#), including J.K. Simmons, Anya Taylor-Joy, Salma Hayek, and Brendan Fraser. The premise is captivating: Santa Claus, codenamed “Red One” and portrayed by Simmons, has been kidnapped, and it’s up to Callum Drift (Johnson), an ELF task force commander, and Evans’ roguish [bounty hunter](#) to rescue him and save Christmas. Despite the promising setup, the movie has received a mixed reception from both critics and audiences.

On **Rotten Tomatoes**, “Red One” holds a modest score of 33%, reflecting a generally unfavorable critical consensus. Critics have been particularly harsh on the film’s narrative execution, with The Times UK labeling it as “one of the worst movies of the year,” criticizing its lack of narrative urgency and calling it “Gross, grim yuletide yuck.” Owen Gleiberman from [Variety](#) echoed similar sentiments, noting that the film fails to capture the true spirit of Christmas, instead delivering a “charmless action movie” with a convoluted kidnap-rescue plot.

Despite the critical consensus, some reviewers have found merit in “Red One.” William Bibbiani from [The Wrap](#) offers a more balanced perspective, suggesting the film is “slightly above average.” This indicates that while the movie may not excel, it still provides a level of entertainment for those seeking a different take on holiday films. Additionally, [ScreenDollars](#) praised J.K. Simmons’ portrayal of Santa Claus, highlighting the character’s depth and the film’s ability to blend mayhem with holiday cheer effectively.

Audience reactions on [social media platforms](#) have been similarly divided. On [Reddit](#), some viewers have labeled “Red One” as “the worst Christmas movie ever made,” expressing disappointment in its failure to deliver a cohesive and engaging story. Conversely, there are fans who appreciate the film’s unique approach to holiday storytelling. Kristen Maldonado from [Pop Culture Planet](#) described the movie as “an action-packed holiday showdown,” applauding its fresh characters and the energetic performances of the leads.

The performances of Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans are a highlight, even if the film’s script doesn’t fully capitalize on their [star power](#). Johnson’s portrayal of Callum Drift is solid, exuding strength and determination, while Evans brings a playful and charismatic energy to his role as the bounty hunter. However, their chemistry, though promising, doesn’t consistently translate into on-screen magic, leaving some interactions feeling forced. The [supporting cast](#), including Anya Taylor-Joy, Salma Hayek, and Brendan Fraser, add valuable layers to the story, but many believe their talents are underutilized, yearning for more substantial screen time and character development.

Visually, “Red One” is a spectacle. The film’s elaborate set pieces, from the high-tech North Pole command center to the eerie witch’s lair, showcase the extensive budget and impressive production design. The special effects are top-notch, contributing to the film’s immersive experience. However, these visual elements can’t entirely compensate for the movie’s lack of a strong, coherent narrative. Director Jake Kasdan, traditionally known for his work in the comedy genre, appears to struggle with balancing the film’s action and holiday elements. This results in a tonal inconsistency, where slapstick humor intermittently clashes with [intense action sequences](#), leaving the overall experience disjointed.

The film’s score, composed by Henry Jackman, stands out as a redeeming feature. Nominated in the Sci-Fi/Fantasy category at the [Hollywood Music in Media Awards](#), Jackman’s music effectively captures the whimsical and enchanting essence of the holiday season, providing a much-needed emotional anchor amidst the film’s chaotic pacing. The soundtrack enhances both the [action-packed moments](#) and the quieter, more heartfelt scenes, adding depth to the overall viewing experience.











Box office performance has mirrored the critical and [audience reception](#). “Red One” opened with a global weekend gross of \$26.6 million, falling short of the projected \$25 million to \$40 million range. This underperformance is particularly notable when compared to contemporaries like “Venom 3,” which managed to surpass expectations with a \$33 million [opening weekend](#). The disappointing [box office](#) numbers suggest that despite its star power and substantial budget, “Red One” failed to resonate with a broad audience base.

In terms of storytelling, “Red One” attempts to blend traditional holiday themes with modern action tropes, aiming to offer something fresh in the crowded Christmas movie market. However, the execution leaves much to be desired. The plot, while initially intriguing, becomes bogged down by its own complexity and a lack of clear direction. Viewers and critics alike have pointed out that the film struggles to maintain a consistent tone, oscillating between comedic and dramatic moments without fully committing to either, which undermines the overall impact of the story.

Despite its flaws, “Red One” possesses the potential to develop a cult following. Its over-the-top premise and unabashed embrace of holiday excess could appeal to viewers looking for a guilty

pleasure during the festive season. The film's ambitious attempt to merge action and holiday magic is commendable, even if the final product doesn't fully live up to its potential. For those willing to overlook its shortcomings, "Red One" offers a visually stunning and entertaining, if imperfect, addition to holiday cinema.

In summary, "Red One" is a visually impressive film that unfortunately stumbles in key areas such as narrative coherence and tonal consistency. While Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans deliver commendable performances and the supporting cast adds valuable flair, the film's overarching issues prevent it from achieving widespread acclaim. The mixed critical and audience reception reflects these challenges, making "Red One" a polarizing entry in the holiday film canon. For viewers seeking a traditional Christmas story, this may not be the ideal choice, but those open to a more unconventional and action-driven holiday adventure might find it worth the watch.

Frequently Asked Questions about "Red One" (2024)

What is the plot of "Red One"?

"Red One" centers around the kidnapping of Santa Claus, codenamed "Red One" and portrayed by J.K. Simmons. The story follows Callum Drift, an ELF task force commander played by Dwayne Johnson, who teams up with a roguish bounty hunter portrayed by Chris Evans. Together, they embark on a globe-trotting mission to rescue Santa and save Christmas. The film blends high-stakes action with festive magic, aiming to offer a fresh take on the holiday genre.

Who are the [main cast members](#) in "Red One"?

"Red One" features a stellar lineup including Dwayne Johnson as Callum Drift, Chris Evans as the bounty hunter, J.K. Simmons as Santa Claus, Anya Taylor-Joy, Salma Hayek, and Brendan Fraser in supporting roles. This ensemble brings a mix of action prowess and [charismatic performances](#) to the film, though some critics feel the supporting talents are underutilized.

Who directed "Red One" and what is their background?

The film is directed by Jake Kasdan, known for his work in the comedy genre with films like "Hitch" and "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle." In "Red One," Kasdan attempts to balance action elements with holiday spirit, though some [reviews suggest](#) he struggles to maintain a consistent tone throughout the movie.

How was "Red One" received by critics?

"Red One" received mixed to negative reviews from critics. On Rotten Tomatoes, it holds a score of 33%, indicating a generally unfavorable reception. The Times UK criticized it as "Gross, grim yuletide yuck," while Owen Gleiberman from [Variety](#) described it as a charmless action movie that fails to capture the true spirit of Christmas. However, some reviewers like William Bibbiani from [The Wrap](#) found it to be "slightly above average," suggesting it may still offer some entertainment value.

What do audiences think about "Red One"?

Audience reactions are similarly divided. On platforms like [Reddit](#), some viewers have labeled "Red One" as "the worst Christmas movie ever made," citing disappointment in its narrative and execution.

Conversely, others appreciate its unique approach to holiday storytelling. Kristen Maldonado from [Pop Culture Planet](#) described it as “an action-packed holiday showdown,” highlighting the film’s fresh characters and energetic performances.

Where can I watch “Red One”?

“Red One” is available to watch on [MustWatch](#). This platform offers various options to stream the movie, ensuring viewers can enjoy the film from the comfort of their homes.

How did “Red One” perform at the box office?

“Red One” had a global opening weekend gross of \$26.6 million, which fell short of the projected range of \$25 million to \$40 million. Compared to other blockbusters released around the same time, such as “Venom 3,” which earned over \$33 million in its opening weekend, “Red One” underperformed commercially. This outcome reflects the film’s mixed reception and inability to resonate broadly with audiences.

What are the strengths of “Red One”?

One of the film’s notable strengths is its visual spectacle. With a \$200 million budget, “Red One” showcases elaborate set pieces, including a high-tech North Pole command center and an eerie witch’s lair. The special effects are top-notch, creating an immersive experience for viewers. Additionally, Henry Jackman’s score has been praised, earning a nomination in the Sci-Fi/Fantasy category at the [Hollywood Music in Media Awards](#), effectively capturing the whimsical and enchanting essence of the holiday season.

What are the weaknesses of “Red One”?

Despite its visual appeal, “Red One” struggles with narrative coherence and tonal consistency. Critics have pointed out that the film oscillates between slapstick humor and intense action sequences without fully committing to either, resulting in a disjointed viewing experience. Additionally, while the lead actors deliver strong performances, the supporting cast’s talents are often underutilized, leaving audiences wanting more depth and development for these characters.

How are the performances of Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans in “Red One”?

Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans bring significant star power to “Red One.” Johnson’s portrayal of Callum Drift is solid and determined, exuding strength and leadership. Evans adds a playful and charismatic energy to his role as the bounty hunter, providing a dynamic contrast to Johnson’s character. However, some critics feel that their chemistry doesn’t consistently translate into on-screen magic, resulting in interactions that sometimes feel forced.

Is “Red One” worth watching despite the mixed reviews?

Whether “Red One” is worth watching depends on your preferences. If you enjoy action-packed holiday films with a unique twist, you might find “Red One” entertaining despite its flaws. Its visual effects and energetic performances offer a [visually stunning experience](#). However, if you prefer traditional Christmas stories with strong narrative coherence and emotional depth, you might be disappointed. For those open to a more unconventional and action-driven holiday adventure, “Red One” could still serve

as an enjoyable guilty pleasure during the festive season.

How does “Red One” compare to other holiday movies?

“Red One” attempts to blend traditional holiday themes with modern action tropes, aiming to stand out in a crowded market. Compared to classics like “Die Hard” or “Elf,” “Red One” takes a more fantastical and action-oriented approach. While it offers a fresh perspective, the execution falls short in maintaining the heartfelt and cohesive storytelling that makes those classics beloved. Its ambitious blending of genres results in a polarizing film that may appeal to some while alienating others.

Are there any redeeming qualities in “Red One”?

Yes, “Red One” has several redeeming qualities. The film’s visual effects and production design are impressive, creating a vibrant and engaging world. Henry Jackman’s musical score adds an emotional layer that enhances both action scenes and quieter moments. Additionally, J.K. Simmons’ portrayal of Santa Claus brings depth and charm to the character, providing a memorable performance that stands out amidst the film’s other shortcomings.

Will “Red One” spawn a franchise despite its mixed reception?

Given its underwhelming box office performance and [mixed critical reception](#), it’s uncertain whether “Red One” will become a successful franchise. While the film’s ambitious premise and star-studded cast set the stage for potential sequels, its current reception suggests that it may need to address its narrative and tonal inconsistencies to garner the necessary support for a sustained series. Only time will tell if “Red One” can overcome its initial challenges and develop a loyal fanbase.

Where can I find more information or reviews about “Red One”?

For more detailed reviews and information about “Red One,” you can visit [Variety](#), [The Wrap](#), and [Pop Culture Planet](#). These sources offer a range of perspectives from different critics and audiences, helping you form a comprehensive understanding of the film’s reception and quality.

CATEGORY

1. Movies
2. Reviews

POST TAG

1. 2024
2. Action
3. Film
4. movie
5. Red One

ACTOR

1. Chris Evans
2. Dwayne Johnson
3. J.K. Simmons

DIRECTOR

1. Jake Kasdan

GENRE

1. Action
2. Comedy
3. Fantasy

RATING

1. 8

STREAMING-PLATFORM

1. iwatchonline

MOVIE YEAR

1. 2024

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