



## The Instigators (2024)

### Description

"The Instigators" is a 2024 American heist comedy film directed by Doug Liman and written by Chuck Maclean and Casey Affleck. The film stars Matt Damon and Casey Affleck, who also produce the film alongside Ben Affleck under their production company Artists Equity for distribution by Apple TV+ under Apple Original Films. The movie was given a limited theatrical release in the United States on August 2, 2024, before making its streaming debut on Apple TV+ on August 9, 2024.



The [film revolves](#) around Rory (Matt Damon) and Cobby (Casey Affleck), two ill-equipped individuals who are thrown together for a poorly planned heist job. They are joined by the hot-headed Scalvo (Jack Harlow) under the orders of local Boston crime boss Mr. Besegia (Michael Stuhlbarg) and Richie Dechico (Alfred Molina). The heist quickly becomes complicated, leading to a series of setbacks and challenges for the characters.

Doug Liman, known for his work on “The Bourne Identity,” brings his signature style to “The Instigators.” However, the [film’s direction](#) has been criticized for being unfocused and lacking in charm. The screenplay by Casey Affleck and Chuck Maclean has been described as a chore to watch, with an unfocused script that takes little interest in its characters.

Matt Damon and Casey Affleck, reuniting from their “Good Will Hunting” days, deliver performances that have been met with [mixed](#) reviews. While some [critics](#) appreciated their chemistry, others found their performances lacking in depth and charm. Jack Harlow’s portrayal of Scalvo adds a layer of unpredictability to the film, but the overall [ensemble cast](#) has been criticized for being [underutilized](#).

The film's visuals are a [mixed bag](#), with some over-the-top [action](#) sequences that require a suspension of disbelief. The car chase scenes, in particular, have been described as unrealistic and reminiscent of superhero movies. The music, while fitting the heist genre, does little to elevate the film's overall impact.

"The Instigators" attempts to blend humor with action, but the [inconsistent tone](#) makes it difficult for the film to commit to being either an action thriller, a buddy comedy, or a gritty crime drama. The film's many sub-plots sometimes work at cross-purposes, leading to a confusing narrative.

### Strengths:

- Chemistry between Matt Damon and Casey Affleck
- Humorous elements that provide some entertainment value

### Weaknesses:

- Unfocused direction and screenplay
- Underutilized ensemble cast
- Inconsistent tone and unrealistic action sequences

Fans of heist comedies like "Ocean's Eleven" or "The Italian Job" may find some enjoyment in "The Instigators," but the [film falls short](#) of the cleverness and charm of these classics. Doug Liman's direction, while reminiscent of his work on "The Bourne Identity," lacks the tight pacing and engaging narrative of his previous films.

"The Instigators" is a heist comedy that has polarized critics and audiences alike. While some appreciate its humor and the chemistry between Damon and Affleck, others find it lacking in coherence and depth. The film's mixed reception suggests that it may appeal to fans of the lead actors and those looking for a light-hearted, albeit flawed, heist movie.

### Positive Reviews

Some critics found "The Instigators" to be a fun and entertaining heist comedy. Akhil Arora praised the film for being a "silly, well-oiled Apple TV+ movie" and highlighted the comedic elements [6](#). The chemistry between Damon and Affleck was also noted as a strong point, with their "affably antagonistic chemistry" being reminiscent of their "Good Will Hunting" days [7](#). Tania Hussain from Collider admired the film for blending humor and action effectively, calling it one of the year's most surprising comedies [8](#).

### Mixed Reviews

Other critics had mixed feelings about the film. David Ehrlich from IndieWire described it as "flimsy in most respects but fun enough in its fumbling" [9](#). The film's inconsistent tone was a point of contention, with some critics feeling that it struggled to commit to being either an action thriller, a buddy comedy, or a gritty crime drama [10](#). Despite these issues, the film's downtime moments, featuring wry and slightly combative banter between the two antiheroes, were appreciated [11](#).

## Negative Reviews

On the flip side, several critics were disappointed with the film. The movie was described as “listless and confusingly overcrowded,” with plot tangents working at cross-purposes [12](#). The film was also criticized for being underwritten, dreary, and without any stakes [13](#). Odie Henderson from the Boston Globe felt that the film “wastes the talents” of its cast [14](#). Additionally, the film’s lack of intrigue and pulse was noted as a significant drawback [15](#).

## Audience Reception

The audience reception was similarly mixed. On Rotten Tomatoes, 39% of 51 critics’ reviews were positive, with an average rating of 5.3/10 [16](#). Metacritic assigned the film a score of 50 out of 100, indicating “mixed or average” reviews [17](#).

## Frequently Asked Questions About The Instigators

### What is “The Instigators” about?

“The Instigators” is a heist comedy film about two ill-equipped individuals, Rory (Matt Damon) and Cobby (Casey Affleck), who are thrown together for a poorly planned heist job. The film follows their misadventures as they navigate a series of setbacks and challenges.

### Where can I watch “The Instigators”?

“The Instigators” is available for streaming on Apple TV+ starting August 9, 2024. For more information, visit [iwatchonline.cc](https://www.iwatchonline.cc).

### Who directed “The Instigators”?

The film was directed by Doug Liman, known for his work on “The Bourne Identity” and “Edge of Tomorrow.”

### What are the main criticisms of “The Instigators”?

Critics have pointed out the film’s unfocused direction, underutilized ensemble cast, inconsistent tone, and unrealistic action sequences as major drawbacks.

### How have audiences reacted to “The Instigators”?

Audience reactions have been mixed, with some appreciating the humor and chemistry between the lead actors, while others found the film lacking in coherence and depth.

### Who stars in “The Instigators”?

The film stars Matt Damon, Casey Affleck, Jack Harlow, Michael Stuhlbarg, and Alfred Molina.

Is “The Instigators” worth watching?

If you enjoy heist comedies and are a fan of Matt Damon and Casey Affleck, you might find “The Instigators” entertaining. However, be prepared for an inconsistent tone and some unrealistic action sequences.

What genre is “The Instigators”?

“The Instigators” is a heist comedy film.

What is the runtime of “The Instigators”?

The film has a runtime of 1 hour and 41 minutes.

What is the rating of “The Instigators”?

The film is rated R.

Factual Table

Aspect	Details
Title	The Instigators
Release Date	August 2, 2024 (limited theatrical), August 9, 2024 (Apple TV+)
Director	Doug Liman
Writers	Chuck Maclean, Casey Affleck
Main Cast	Matt Damon, Casey Affleck, Jack Harlow, Michael Stuhlbarg, Alfred Molina
Genre	Heist, Comedy
Runtime	1h 41m
Rating	R
Production Companies	Artists Equity, The Walsh Company, Apple Studios, Studio 8
Distribution	Apple TV+

For more information and to watch “The Instigators,” visit [iwatchonline.cc](https://www.iwatchonline.cc).

CATEGORY

- 1. Reviews
- 2. Movies

POST TAG

- 1. 2024 Films

2. film analysis
3. movie critique
4. Movie Review
5. The Instigators

## ACTOR

1. Casey Affleck
2. Chuck Maclean

## DIRECTOR

1. Doug Liman

## GENRE

1. Action
2. Comedy
3. Crime
4. Mystery

## RATING

1. 7

## STREAMING-PLATFORM

1. Apple TV+
2. iwatchonline

## MOVIE YEAR

1. 2024

## Category

1. Reviews
2. Movies

## Tags

1. 2024 Films
2. film analysis
3. movie critique
4. Movie Review
5. The Instigators

## Date

2025/04/19

## Date Created

2024/08/09

**Author**  
monicacastillo