



LIFE, A PARTY? In *Wedding Crashers*, Vince Vaughn (L) and Owen Wilson (R) are divorce mediators who like being single ... and crashing weddings

Movie Review:

Wedding Crashers

By Ester Molayeme
Special to The Epoch Times

In the hilarious comedy *Wedding Crashers*, John Beckwith (Owen Wilson) and Jeremy Grey (Vince Vaughn) are best friends and divorce mediators who help couples reach a settlement.

Driven by the belief that problems between spouses are caused not by issues but by the institution of marriage itself, the two not so young, determined bachelors, are firm believers that life ought to be lived to its fullest and commitment free, and by meeting as many beautiful women as possible and in the most optimal of places: weddings.

After mastering the rules of wedding crashing, they spend every summer season infiltrating any wedding they come across: be it Jewish, Irish, Italian, Chinese or Indian ... and become the life of the wedding party. John and Jeremy assume false identities to lure unsuspecting women driven by the prospect of marriage. However, things change when they

crash the wedding of Christina (Jenny Alden), the daughter of the Treasury Secretary, William Cleary (Christopher Walken), and his wife Kathleen (Jane Seymour).

Christina's wedding is the most lavish social event of the year and is not to be missed. At the Cleary's wedding, John and Jeremy set their eyes on two of the bridesmaids Claire (Rachel McAdams) and Gloria (Isla Fisher) Cleary.

Jeremy's charm conquers Gloria but he is quickly frightened by her immediate and unbreakable attachment to him. Jeremy's escape from the "clinger emergency" is impeded by John's unrelenting desire to gain Claire's heart. John hastily accepts an extended invitation to the Cleary's estate only to realize that having a moment with Claire proves to be more difficult than expected because of Claire's boyfriend as well as the flirtatious Mrs. Cleary.

At the Cleary's mansion, John and Jeremy experience a series of hilarious misadventures with the dysfunctional Cleary family. The members

include: the powerful Treasury Secretary William Cleary; Mrs. Cleary who whispers to John that she has been married for 30 years, but faithful for only two; sweet little Grandma, Mary Cleary (Ellen Albertini Dow), who blurts profane and inappropriate comments; Todd Cleary (Keir O'Donnell), the family's emotionally tormented son; Sack (Bradley Cooper), Claire's manic boyfriend, and Father Gibson (Henry Gibson) who cannot be trusted with confessionals.

The strength of this outrageous comedy is in the chemistry of the cast, the superb energetic acting, as well as in the script's unpredictable raunchy lines. Costume designer Denise Wingate, decorator Garrett Lewis and director of photography, Julio Macat, give each wedding its distinctively authentic look and add richness to the weddings' festivities.

Wedding Crashers engages the audience through relatable and outrageously funny twists of events that test John's and Jeremy's wedding crashing rules and their bond of friendship.

Chavez's Latam TV to Fight "cultural imperialism"

CARACAS, Venezuela (Reuters) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez launched a new Latin American television channel on Sunday to fight what his government called "cultural imperialism" from U.S. and European media.

Telesur (Telesouth), a Spanish-language station formed by the governments of Venezuela, Argentina, Cuba and Uruguay, began transmissions with round-table commentary from the station's officials and an advisory board of international left-wing intellectuals and celebrities.

"We launch Telesur with a clear goal to break this communication regime and present a vision, a voice which until now has been silenced. Telesur is an initiative against cultural imperialism," Andres Izarra, Telesur president and Venezuela's minister of communications, said.

The Venezuelan-financed venture aims to provide a Latin American perspective on events, promote cultural diversity, and counter what its creators call the "hegemony" of international and local commercial networks in their coverage of the region.

Chavez, an outspoken left-wing nationalist who often accuses U.S. President George W. Bush of plotting to topple him, called the launch a "success" and said Telesur was vital to his vision of Latin American and Caribbean integration.

He said the channel was drawing viewers from around the region and that even Bush was "glued to the television watching Telesur."

Relations with the United States, the top buyer of Venezuela's oil, have deteriorated since Chavez first won office in 1998 and strengthened relations with Communist Cuba. The United States gets around 15 percent of its oil imports from Venezuela, the world's No. 5 crude exporter.

'ELECTRONIC WARFARE'

Chavez said the network was a blow to an effort by some U.S. legislators trying to wage what he has called "electronic warfare" against him.

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a bill with an amendment that authorizes broadcasts to Venezuela to counter what one U.S. lawmaker called Chavez's "anti-American, anti-freedom rhetoric." Backers of the measure

hope to get the Senate to approve their version of the legislation.

"The United States has threatened us with broadcasts to neutralize Telesur. We have scored the first goal," Chavez said in a telephone call to the channel during the launch.

Telesur advisory board members attending the broadcast included British left-wing intellectual Tariq Ali, Le Monde Diplomatique editor Ignacio Ramonet, and U.S. film star Danny Glover.

Chavez also defended Telesur against critics who say it will become a propaganda mouthpiece for his self-styled "revolutionary" government and for his Caribbean ally, Cuban President Fidel Castro.

"I am sure that Telesur will maintain its independence. Telesur will not depend on any government ... it will be free to navigate in the waters of truth and contribute to the construction of a new world," Chavez said.

Members of Telesur's advisory board called upon the channel to reflect Latin America's ethnic diversity in its programming and challenge what Tariq Ali called the "dictatorship of corporate capital" in international media.

"This is a television channel whose job it should be to encourage creativity, diversity, debates, including debates with our enemies," Ali said.

Telesur, which made its first test broadcast in May, will initially offer limited programming for four hours a day but plans to move to a 24-hour format later this year, showing news, documentaries, films and cultural events.

The Caracas-based channel will broadcast news by satellite from bureaus in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Brasilia, Brazil; Montevideo, Uruguay; La Paz, Bolivia; Bogota, Colombia; Caracas; Havana; Mexico City and Washington.



Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez cheers during the broadcasting of his weekly program "Alo, Presidente" (Hello, President) in Caracas.

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