

[ok so basically what my plan is is to watch the movie with this doc open and comment on things when they come up; ill also try to stop during moments when I have more aggregated thoughts are larger scale things to comment on/note; last thing I will mention is that I am writing this without spell check on, so how ever it comes written will be exculsively me keepin' it straight :100_emoji:]

[I was confused at first because I had my volume turned off; thought they had turned this into a charlie chaplin joint or some shit, we all good now... Starting now]

I'll be honest, the intro sequence (of the burger making) is actually not too shabby. I'm always a sucker for stop motion animation and it even had a little charm to go with

Damn. They fr hit the good weenie with a "discontinued." We truly live in a society

Also though, I'm fr tryna get a G od taco, where's that movie at? Taco bell comes in and they have to fight them off with the strength of their sauce packet. I feel like that would be a romp tbh

Sure the effects in the flying hamburger sequence are bad or whatever, but I feel like the bigger question becomes why this sequence is even in the film. Maybe I'll stand corrected but I feel like ed's unconscious hamburger veganism doesn't come back again. I'm just not sure I guess what it adds to have the film open this way as opposed to him waking up. I could buy the ordering of the meal or whatever, but idk about the pertinence of the rest. Just because it's a dream ig. Doesn't have to mean anything or set anything up, nono. That would be too smart

What is this editing? 80 million cuts per second. Idk. Maybe every scene just got corrupted so they had to splice them all together like a frankenstein puzzle

In a way goodburger actually speaks to the kafkaesque structure of corporatized production. A world in which everything is both at a standstill and at constant cataclysmic intersection. You have the store where workers refuse to do tasks that are outside of their assigned position (a kind of hyper specialization wherein labor becomes abstracted into a mechanical and depersonal system of interlocking cogs) but you also have Ed on his way to the store, moving with seeming infinite inertia purely because he is wearing roller skates (not even that he is skating, as much as the force of his wheeled shoes is somehow cosmically dragging him along into an unavoidable and unwanted fate). This is a world wherein only chance and and systems can have a say in things, individuals are completely subservient to that which is above them (even the acts of heroism that come later on are comingled with a kind of absurdist spontaneity). Even human life and violence are uncontrollable and inquantifiable values. Everything is subservient to a larger invisible hierarchy of vampiric bureacracy. Things may have the same capabilities as one another but their titles and their positions within systems and spatial temporal existences restrict them by nature from manifesting into a self-eficacious assemblage. Nothing has to change to benefit others because nothing can be helped outside of itself

Wacky stuff tbh

These extras really be out here

I feel like Ed's dumbness isn't that funny. In my opinion the only real function it serves in this film is to enable it to structure itself in a more low effort configuration. Things don't have to be developed or laid out, they can just be explained to Ed (the audience's perspective proxy) and become truth. But this method of exposition also erases a lot of stakes. The audience never is put in a position where they have to process that which they know and come to conclusions or inclinations about what might come. There isn't any reward for being attentive. Because for all they know a sudden crucial plot point was hidden out of their view the whole time. Reveals in this way don't work/aren't as rewarding because they play up unknown and unknowable information as though it is a coming to know. It is a method of writing into being from nothing, a kind of deified creation of narrative structure. We don't have to keep tabs on things because there is above us and out of our control an omnipotent creator who brings into existence that which never was. The future is not an extension of the past but a new conjuration based in similar visual and narrative themes as that which has already come to be

it can kind of work (it sometimes does a little bit here) but having it be plastered on is a carte blanche passion of expedition I think does not help the film

wait a second. This teacher is dripped out the straight wazzoo

tbh this whole scene at the school is not too bad. It really pulls from its blaxploitation inspirations (even a Shaft name drop) if this was the whole film tbh that'd be fire

but also, wtf is Dexter's drip??!? Straight out of a safety patrol stock catalogue

the plot has now decided that employees CAN do multiple jobs, because the executive producer (Dan Schneider) said so (diegetically and extradiegetically methinks)

I feel like this movie potentially does have things to say about black class stratification in America but I think it also has other interests in mind before actually addressing that head on and not tangentially through generic stereotype

I like how during the teacher and Dexter's fight all the white people in the neighborhood just gather in the background to see what's going on. Tbh this would def happen. Wypipo be like: "wacky black folx stirring up trouble in my aryan suburb :eyes:"

I really honestly love the dynamic between dexter and his teacher – straight vibes. And the teacher is mad chillin, not even gonna front

Dexter fr be making a mondo burger how I swear some people be making my food at fast food places, if they can get the jobs so should he be able to

(also, their system is not really that different from goodburger's tbh. A world of strict hierarchy and regimentation. I know they are evil because they make vegan burgers or whatever, but I feel like, in actuality their business practices are not any more exploitative than any other business under capitalism. The issue again should be levied against systems that cause these forms of orientation to become incentivized and not with the one version that is a darker color palette. They don't seem like an amazon or a tesla is what im saying I guess)

Dexter > Ed. There I said it. Its what we all been thinking but were too afraid to speak out about before. No longer.

I also like how this movie is a very very not subtly veiled propoganda for nickolodean. That the brand chain associated with dan schneider is good because its just so wacky, versus those evil no fun corporate people trying to steal their business (disney for example)

Why did mondo burger decide to set up their place across the street from goodburger? Like they could set up shop anywhere in the world and they chose the one intersection in the town that also happens to have another eatery of the same exact cuisine. Like I know they are trying to buy them out, but I feel like they arent doing themselves a ton of favors (idk how econ works though so maybe this is just a super smart thing to do, set up in a place that already has its demands met and isnt looking for any more of the services you hope to provide minus the one grumpy construction worker)

Jkjk mondo burger is amazon. I take back partially what I said before (though I still think this is kind of a narrative strawman)

Dexter on the sauce hard. They really put a shake-a-holic in their film

Do vegetarians not wear fur? I thought that was mainly a vegan thing (also wouldn't a vegetarian also not eat fur?)

Why would they have a burger mobile? For the free press I guess, but it feels like a costly risk for not really that much payoff. Just like put a triangle on the roof idk

I like how the plot of the movie is that mondo burger took dick enlargement pills and so now no one will have sex with small dick good burger

I also like how abe vigoda, legendary actor, is just randomy in this movie. I guess he needed the money, but it just ???? ok lol

Also also, dexter makes a comment earlier on about how the stripes in monique's dress make her eyes stand out, and I feel like its kind of true ngl (she retorts that everyone at work wears the same thing, but its still a true statement either way)

Final also before I log off for a bit. I think that maybe I just don't really like good burger as a location. I feel like the humor is much more limited and demeaning there. Even mondo burger is more compelling for me. And every time the characters step outside I feel almost like I am immediately more interested in both the narrative and humor that the film is offering

[I am not taking a little good burger break and will come back at a later time/date]

Always gotta love a non-consensual sauce promotion. Yeah, kids, there's nothing wrong with eating the special homebrew sauce from someone at mcdonalds – in fact its probably a hidden delicacy!

I also think that its interesting that this movie somehow cannot imagine a world of the coexistence of capital. It can only have things be one way or the other. This is an ok dynamic for the set up present in the movie (fighting against the corporatization of a local food joint) but the film's solutions are beyond corporate absolution and instead targetted at perpetuating competition through this weird frankenstenien croney capitalist pseudo meritocracy form of capitalism. Mondo burger is bad because they cheat by having big money, good burger deserves to win because they just worked harder than mondo burger. At no point in the film, really, does the film allow its cast of characters (on either side) to commiserate with their apparent enemies. When ed and dexter end up fighting mondo burger the employees are not really portrayed as people as much as goons (especially the higher up the hierarchy they get). I'm all for demolishing companies that have poor working practices, but I'm not sure that goodburger (the restraurant) necessarily escapes that classification. At the end of the day the employees in both companies are people and the restraurants they work for are not some kind of holy family, they are modes of exploitation (not generous benefactors who are kind enough to give jobs to their workers as much as institutions that can pay as little as they want for dehumanizing labor – 5\$ an hour for instance).

I feel like I keep coming back to it, but Mondo burger is definitely a worse institution than goodburger, but neither are really that amazing. And also both are run by human beings who give up their summer vacations and last years of their lives to provide the labor necessary for the continuation of the maintenance of their operations. But I think a lot of this comes from dan schneider's central role behind and in front of the film. It wants to protect and advocate for its precise brand of content manufacturing, willing to go so far as to fetishize the "family" (read here its cast of actors, crew members, etc.) it shares as some kind of communal and sacred unit (constantly under threat from other such institutions). This conjoining of the corporate with the familial also frames nick as a fun and loving place (by way of that is what is seen on the television) that is to be protected (the innocence and purity of this structure is time and again highlighted over its potential dangerous implications).

"I know some of these words" tbh this is the line from goodburger that has stuck with me the most

Tbh I feel like dexter and the teacher's characterizations are pretty inconsistent throughout the film. Sometimes they are chill and fly af and then sometimes they just become super anal and scummy. Both I wish they would pick a lane, but also when they keep making them become jerks for the sake of being jerks, it kind of demeans the times when they are chill and cool. Like maybe that was a fluke. The bad stuff taints the good stuff is kind of what im saying (it ruins the sauce so to speak)

This movie does this weird thing where it treads a strange line between humor, sincerity, and farce. There will be moments of real character drama or narrative development (fairly frequently even ones that have the visage of saying or building up to something) but then there will also be these moments of humor (by this I mean the moments where the jokes land out of quantitative pulverization and when they land, in either case, the moments when the film ventures to let the cover down from in front of its plastice façade and reveal its genuine charm and heart) but then there will be these butchered and almost gangrene moments of farce and infantilization (the movie has an unfathomable amount of slap-stick-esque sound effects, but which are completely divorced tonally from the film). The film seems nothing if not viscerously intent on hemorrhaging viewer engagement, sawing off every limb they might possibly get attached to so that it may lay about in a enervating milieu of disengagement. It is a film that is designed to eject its viewers from the experience (in this way the film winds up as the very product it claims to be lambasting in mondo burger). The slapstick effects may seem at first as though they add an air of comical lassaize faire-ness to the film, but their delivery is infinitely moreso one of industrial pollution than humorous organic extension (being that one takes the slapstick sound effect to be a way of dramatizing and humoritizing the pain and extension of a body that is not in reality present)

So much of this film's humor is just like haha what if ed and dexter were gay, jk they're not, but wouldn't that be kind of quirked up and funny if they were. Arent gay ppl so funny (but also these jokes are similarly coupled with intonation of sexual misconduct, that thing that other people have talked about much already where its ok to make fun of male targeted sexual misconduct but creepy to do so toward

women). I think what im saying is that this movie is maybe not the nicest to queer characters (that they are punchlines primarily) or to the bodily autonomy of men. It is what it is when you watch nickalodean

This film really is at its best when it sticks to personal problems and racial politics of its central cast of characters. Like unironically those moments are good

Also unironically, the Shaq sequence is like straight fire. They just kind of went for it. And then they did it

Not gonna go into it fully but it's a smartly written moment that is kind of poking fun of (or dragging, depending on your reading) the absurdities of celebrity sponsorships and live tv ad spots, also it's the first moment I think that really foregrounds the fact that good is the same word as good (that is to say that the double entendre of good burger being called what it is – namely that it is an invocation of quality and brand such that when Shaq enjoys “good food” this extends to the quality and brand of food he enjoys). But also this is nick's way of getting shaq to sponsor them bc good burger is the standin for nick (and technically shaq being in the film – to advertise for good burger – is an advertisement for the film and thus by proxy for nick). Lots of ouroborusing going on in this moment

Kurt kind a cute in his green shirt tbh

I actually did a double take when they used “diphthong” as a substitute for dipshit

Mfw when I look up minimum wage and see that the employees of good burger are making less than minimum wage?!?

Mfw this movie fetishizes child labor? Mfw face when this movie also says that paying stagnant wages is ok and cool, actually. And that labor benefits are totally fine to not exist

I like how one of kurt's minions is just like. A full ass grown man. Like he looks like he's at least 30 years old or something (he looks very silly in the mondo burger suits)

MFw THERE IS A SONG IN THE MOVIE ABOUT PROSTITUTING?!? AND WHEN A MAJOR PLOTPOINT OF THE FILM IS MONDO BURGER TRYING TO STATUTORILY RAPE A YOUNG BLACK MALE SO THAT THEY CAN SUCEED IN BUSINESS?!?!?

I. CANNOT. EXPRESS. HOW. INSANE. THIS. IS

Like theoretically this is a very interesting subject at hand, about the abuse of children in urban black communities, especially relating to premature sexual encounters and a certain branch of black toxic

masculinity. But this film is not asking those questions. Nope. It is making a joke about this topic that is very real and has very real consequences. Whyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy goodburger whyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy... you were doing so ok up until now ☹️☹️

Tbh if chickens mooed the world would be a better place (I always say we live in a society without enough mooing – its like my catchphrase if im being honest)

Monique kinda clutch tbh, she a real one fr fr

Reflecting on this whole pimping roxanne subplot. I still think its pretty gross (even the knocking her unconscious despicable me 2 style is very sussy imo) but like technically both actors were of age (I think its dubious whether or not the characters are, however, especially with the presentation of the non-drivers license and the schooling within the film). Maybe its possibly sort of kind of ok, but no actually I think it's a bad mark against the film, it is extraneous and does nothing if not traffic in harmful ideas and flavors

I think that monique coming around to dexter bc of ed really works! its both a good moment in the film narratively (marking the halfway point) and for the character's. their relationship is really sweet and imbued with genuine kindness and compassion. This also works because it kind of shows dexter what he is missing out on when things soon fall apart, it gives him a concrete sort of goal to be working toward (his happiness, which he learns is obtainable through his kindness). Actually such a shame that this moment is dragged down within the film by the roxanne beat. Shucks

I guess one interesting thing that this movie brings up is how capitalist systems (especially ones under professional managerial classes) engender interclass warfare rather than systematic struggles. The wages that the good burger employees are paid are criminally low, but because the workers are indoctrinated to accept what they are given, they don't lobby their systems to pay them fairer wages but instead turn against their peers and fight each other in a war of self-destructive exploitation. Dexter should take up his lack of pay with his manager (in fact the employees of goodburger would benefit greatly from unionization in general) but instead he backstabs ed with a contract (a document which evokes the governmental programs that have exploited (un)willing black and indigenous communities for their labor and resources in the past) in the same way that multi level marketing turns non-elites against their class peers

Idk how much of good burger's interesting things come from its genre or from its creators intent. I feel like it might be genre moreso than intent, but interesting either way

I think that dexter's confession to ed actually really works within the framework of the film. Because ed's character is that of the straight man (with a more bufoonic overture) he becomes aligned with a status of almost eden like naivete. Theoretically whether dexter tells ed or not doesn't change ed's understanding of events. Dexter could leave things as they are (in a system of exploitation) and ed would be none the wiser (as the film points out). but even though ed wouldn't take any issue with the state of affairs, the state of affairs remain one of exploitation. (compare to the house elves in harry potter who actually like their bondage maybe sometimes. For them the righteous act would still be liberation and annullment of the contract. Exploitation in any form – even consensual or unaware – is unjustifiable, and the closer it gets towards theft or de-autnomization the more abhorrant it gets). Dexter was absolutely in the wrong originally, but by making this change he develops a sense of class consciousness – the struggle is not within his own class but with the system. He cannot become the same kind of oppressor that he is currently subservient to. Basically this is the film saying that it is ones duty to take the ethically correct action (or to make amends) whenever possible even when that means usurping the status quo

Ok. We need to talk about the dog talking scene. Ed claims that the dog said that there is a car broken down with four clowns in it. Dexter says that crazy and the dog is just hungry. The mondo burger reveal or whatever happens (also I will just say that the film claims that the mondo burgers are 3x the good burgers, but like, they are definitely more than just 3x – those good burgers are about as thick as a piece of card stock). And then the next scene shows a broken down car with clowns, one of whom exclaims, "where is that dang dog?" HOWEVER, there are 5 clowns in this scene. And $5 \neq 4$. So what is the point of the scene? At first glance it appears to undermine dexter for misjudging Ed, for cutting him short (although the film has given him no real reason to do so, like why should he at all be expected to take this claim at face value when a million other similar ones have been able to be dismissed without any fret) but then it is also undermining ed. Maybe ed just mistranslated the dog, but either way the cut away only serves to discredit him in a way that is completely superfluous. It basically is the film flaunting that ed is wrong. "Remember that thing he just said? Well look how almost right he was! But he's still wrong! Isn't that just ridiculous!? Hahaha! Silly ed," That's what the film is saying

Why does trans ed kind of look well made up? Like the fit totally works (versus dexter who just looks kind of like a tacky person dressing up as an older woman)

I feel like one could complain about the black trans/female representation but its whatever idrc

This movie really do be pro fda. Pro whistleblower. Pro regulation. Good burger really came out here and said, "workers rights" and all that (even sometimes workers wrongs? :flushed:)

Tbh I liked the cross dress break in sequence as a whole. A nice little set piece. A little corned up I wont lie, but got some charm too to be sure

I legit completely forgot about this whole asylum subplot

I feel like most zoos don't have kangaroos? Idk tho

The obvious stereotyping of otherly abled people isn't really worth mentioning. Kind of par for the course with the film and genre and time. Still super bad and anti-based-pilled but not more egregious than one would expect

I will note however, the film keeps falling over itself for crazy white ladies to be horned up for ed (especially such that they are attracted to his blackness) I don't know enough about the relevant issues to comment on it further but I feel like there is something to be said about that. Idk if its stereotyping black male fetishism or if its stereotyping white women being naturally drawn to 'superior' black meat (to use improper terms)

I like the random rorschach print outs hanged on the wall. Like its such a dumb prop lol. Not even funny shapes. And totally unrelated to what the facility seems to be designed for (would be used in like analysis/assessment at least, definitely not in a treatment facility)

I just remembered! I don't know when it was (maybe during cross dress scene) because I am writing this over a couple of days, but at one point the evil guy makes a mention to a good taco or something like that. Like he says something about wrapping dex and ed up in a taco shell or somethin (idrk). Either way though, further proof that good burger does in fact sell tacos and that they are of note (the good tacos I mentioned earlier) or just a random coincidence that the random foot item I noticed, they noticed too :person_shrugging:

Lol. I like how when the bad guys break into good burger at night, and they use a bolt cutter, they don't actually cut the lock. They just make the gesture (but it doesn't go through) and the sound plays and then they take the lock off (which was already open). Like it's a super minor thing and there are a bunch of other moments much in the same vein (for instance everytime we see the good burger mobile triving crazy on the road, the passengers are very obviously different people from dexter and ed) but this one pushed it over for me I guess idk. I don't know how to explain it, it just feels so completely ridiculous

I like how mondo burger is just like the republican party during watergate

The prison dance scene is so random but also like it kinda works tbh

its so absolutely random and excessive but they just 100 percent go for it – straight lean into the ridiculousness and own it

like I like the idea that every inmate knows the same totally random dance by heart and all decide to do it in the same direction (towards the security guards)

I also like that the security guards cannot dance at all. Like that they just look like two cringe tyrannosaurus. Because like that would definitely be how it would be irl. Two thumb like zzz police officers deeeffinitely do not have ANY groves (but they also definitely would try to go for it and suck balls)

I love that Abe Vigoda is in the film. Now that he's more central within it is so obvious that he's one of the film's most competent and talented actors. Like he's also doing stupid things in a Nick movie but he feels totally natural. Great stuff ngl I don't know how to properly put it. He doesn't feel like a clunky old man or washed up or unsure he just kind of feels perfect in a completely odd and misplaced sort of way

I think that the movie is the only thing in the world that believes in the possibility of an ed x 'psychopath' ship. Like they talk only two or three times in kind of milquetoast sort of ways but the movie is like, "nope, they're 100 in love and I bet all of u r so sad to see them leave each other. isn't that so tragic?" but like nope lol, she's just an extra for all I'm concerned -- idk tho

I guess one thing to be said about the movie is that it kind of acknowledges the mistreatment of the differently abled by society (though in kind of the same ways that all other media with these tropes does so). The whole maybe some of the people in an asylum aren't crazy but are there because of extraneous condition (for which something can be extended to the prisoner industrial complex; especially with the film's focus on blackness). But then the film also kind of says that maybe definitely a lot of the people in the institution deserve to be there because they're crazy af. A little bit wishy-washy tbh

I think you could maybe read the teacher's repeated destruction of his mailbox as the repeated destruction of black communities whenever they try to develop them – like just as things start to turn the corner, a gov policy or hate movement or other factor randomly comes and demolishes them again. So random tbh. Idk how you can't just build intergenerational wealth. It should be so easy – just make your mailbox in a different spot 4head

So many things I could say for this final spy part but none of it is rly that important. Ill just mention a couple briefly:

The parkour up the building does look pretty easy (so easy in fact that they had to do crazy and unnatural things to the camera to try to hide it)

I like the fact that Mondo Burger has laundry for their suits in house, the people all show up to work in different clothes I guess

The fact that the ketchup and mustard guns are wireless seems very unhelpful for what they are designed for

I feel like more goons got ketchup and mustard on them than there were actually (like we see more soiled goons than the number who got shot)

The icarus like fall of mondo burger is kind of interesting (honestly it parallels the ending of dr. strangelove). An attempted commentary on the repercussions of unethical corporate business practices (that they will eat up and destroy everything) though im not sure that its quite saying that in the way it thinks it is

I have no idea both why the teacher always is dripped out the freakin wazzoo but also why the film so vigorously hates him

I guess I kind of take back part of what I said about the teacher and dexter's flip floppy natures (its definitely still mostly true in the beginning of the film, but they get more cohesive further and further into the movie)

Also I do think that ed's "sudden smartness" at the end of the film (about his decision to destroy mondo burger) isnt actually that out of character/random. Even though he is time and again presented as kind of a dumb/socially unaware person he is also a young black man in america. As such it wouldn't be super surprising to me if his homelife or community exposed him to the same kind of authority injustices he describes (that you can't trust the police and that the courts will almost definitely not fairly in your favor). I still definitely think it's a good moment, but its also kind of a haunting moment – implying almost that these kinds of awareness are necessary and inherent to a certain american experience (that certain americans grow up learning that america doesn't work for them and to see any justice they must take justice into their own hands)

Also that this awareness of america's injustices finally makes dexter really fully that his battle is not against his brothers or peers but against the larger cages and prison systems that hold them. Thus when says "is it because I'm black" I would not be surprised if it actually was partly just that (dexter even replies "no, its not because you're... uh, cus im... uh..."(with the implication being that he was going to say black)

I thought for some reason that abe vigoda's character died. I kept thinking "oh, yep. He's gonna just fall down and die in a pile of dust now" (he didn't obviously but idk why I thought that)

The final shot brings back into focus the question of why they even leave "good weenie" on the menu if its discontinued? You'd think they would just take it off or something. Maybe they needed the symmetry it provided idrk

Ok. Having watched it again I definitely think I was too hard on it in the past. It's a kids movie and so its quality is mostly mediocre but it serves its purpose pretty well. I think the emphasis it places on black characters and stories is also really important (especially when those are elements not super present in much of older children's media). From a 2022 perspective, its definitely behind on the times. Some not good representation here and there (but also a fair amount of not too bad representation). Mostly the film is kind of inoffensive (though I feel I have addressed a number of its more egregious offenses). Technically, there isnt too much to complain about. The sound effects such and the editing is really terrible in a couple of places but nothing so bad that it drags the movie down. It's definitely an unabashed capitalist apologia and it undoubtedly engages its fair share of autofelatio. The prostitute scene still disgusts me (seriously. That is not ok in the slightest. Under any circumstances). Of all the kid's shows and movies out there, I think I'd be fine with my kid or sibling watching this, though. Got some fun set pieces and action. Its enjoyable for the most part (though I myself had to take a few breaks). The beginning 45 minutes or so for me were super duper draining but after that I think the movie won over and I was just kind of along for the ride.

I feel like im mostly running out of things to say. The songs work within the film for the most part and the theme track / "oh" sound is not too bad either. Overall I would probably give it a 4/10 maybe (it could honestly be bumped up to a 5 or go down to a 3 depending on how I feel)

Let me know if this isn't what you were looking for/doesn't work for you. If you want a more formalized review I can try and pull that together maybe tomorrow while I'm at work. Thanks for the recommendation either way and hopefully you got something enjoyable/worthwhile from this 😊

Hope your summer is going great and I'll see you on Friday (I hope!)