

Borat, sexy-time-high-five, alright!

Matthew Olson

The Clackamas Print

Sacha Baron Cohen is a genius, pure and simple. *Da Ali G Show*, his roll in *Talladega Nights* and now his latest opus, *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan* cement his status as a prolific comedic actor.

In *Borat*, Cohen portrays an eccentric Kazakhstani reporter who's assigned to tour America and bring back social, political and economical improvements for his country. When he arrives in New York, he tours the town trying to learn what he can of American culture. Of course, his absurd misconceptions and prejudices prevent him from really understanding the "U.S. and A."

Quickly, the main thrust of the movie is revealed; as Borat sits in his room watching TV, *Baywatch* comes on, and he is immediately enamored with Pamela Anderson. The instigating event is afterward, when Borat gets a telegram from Kazakhstan that his wife has died tragically. His reaction is classic Borat, as he celebrates with the bellhop over her death, and is then free to pursue the busty blonde starlet.

This combination of real reactions to Cohen's character

and a coherent fictional plot that motivates the trek across America makes *Borat* a solid film all around. Unlike the sketches that Cohen does on *Da Ali G Show*, where Borat spontaneously shows up at events, the movie has a cohesive plotline that makes viewers curious as to just how Borat will win Pamela Anderson's affections.

If there's one movie this year that earns the title of "must-see," *Borat* is that movie. It's easily deserving of multiple Emmys, Grammys, Tonys, Golden Globes, kudos, thumbs-ups and high-fives. The movie is generally offensive, obviously controversial and immensely entertaining.

Beyond just the plot, Cohen's brilliance in the movie should require sunglasses to be worn while watching... but also bring a blindfold for the random male nudity. This is not the good

male nudity that female viewers might enjoy; this is 300-pound-foreigner-running-around-nude wrestling with Borat over a stolen magazine - so, uh, definitely not the good male nudity (if such a thing exists).

There may be points of hysterical laughter during the film, but there is also a downside to the release of the movie. Borat's trademark greeting "jagshemash," pronounced yaig-shamosh, will be repeated over and over by culture-consuming college-age fans until even the deaf will find the faux Kazakhstani accent annoying.

Nonetheless, *Borat* will become an instant classic to all "frat-pack" fans. Rivaling even the likes of such great movies as *Wedding Crashers*, Cohen is taking his place as the king of comedy films. This rise to power is a long-time coming and is well-deserved.

Borat lingo you should know

"Jagshemash" - Kazakhstani greeting

"Dzienkuje" - Means "thank you," pronounced shen-qi

"I like you, do you like me?" - Greeting Borat uses after "jagshemash"

"Sexy-time, high-five" - Celebration of erotic encounters

"How much?" - Means "I think you look pretty," proposition

"When we have the sexy intercourse?" - Exactly how it sounds

"Romance explosion" - Again, self-evident



Internet Photo

What if Jon Stewart ran for prez?

David Stark

The Clackamas Print

Jon Stewart recently announced his intentions to run for the presidency of the United States of America.

Stewart is best known for

hosting *The Daily Show*, which, under his leadership, has won nine Emmy awards and two Peabody awards. Stewart is also the author of the best-selling *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart Presents America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction*, which

took the form of a mock high school textbook and proceeded with a no-holds-barred look at the history of the U.S.

But the career of Jon Stewart has been more than just comedy; he has hosted the Grammys twice, the first time in 2001 and the second a year later. He also hosted the Academy Awards in 2006, a performance that was quite popular, although, like the *Daily Show*, having its detractors.

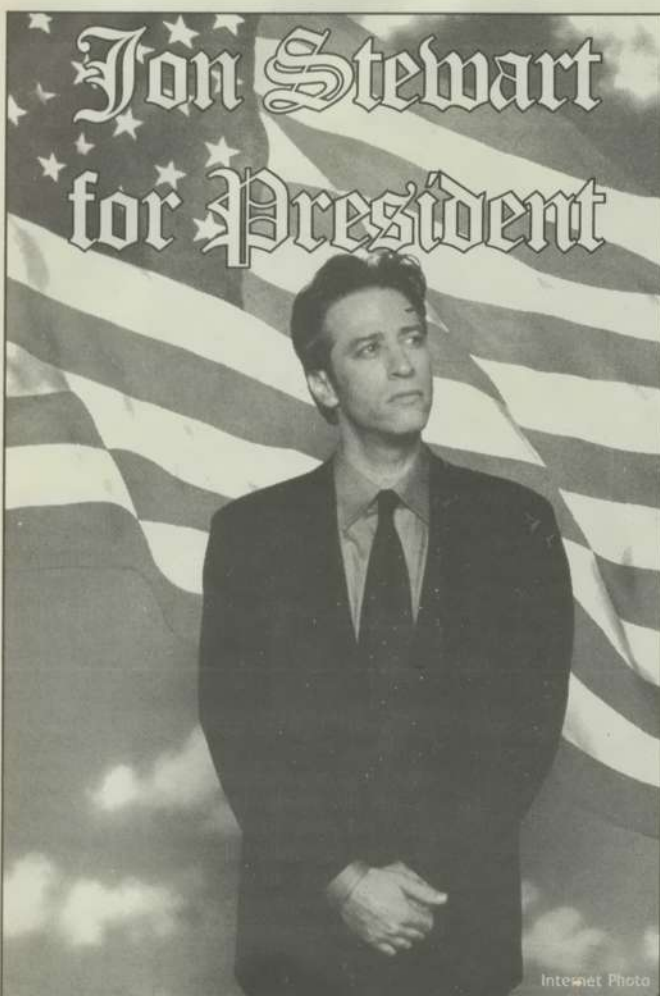
Outspoken critics of the George W. Bush administration, Stewart and the rest of the correspondents on *The Daily Show* have often reproached the many mistakes the administration has made, reminding viewers when things are said but not done.

Stewart, a liberal beyond a shadow of a doubt, could be nothing less than a breath of fresh air in the highly conservative, Republican-dominated White House and Congress. But even if he were to win the election, what would he be able to change if the House of Representatives and the Senate remained in the firm grasp of Republicans?

Nevertheless, Stewart's stated opinions on policies, such as the "War on Terrorism" and the occupation of Iraq, can only lead one to the conclusion that even a man with no political background whatsoever could better manage the situation than a man whose intelligence is lambasted on a daily basis.

So good luck, Jon, you'll need it.

Note: Jon Stewart is not running for president, and everything pertaining to such an event in this article is entirely fictitious.



Internet Photo

TV cartoons are OK

Tayo Stalnaker

The Clackamas Print

Cartoons like *The Family Guy*, *The Simpsons*, *Aqua Teen Hunger Force* and *South Park* contain more wit and laughs than their live-action sitcom counterparts.

When I was a wee lad in the 80s, cartoons played a major role in my life. I remember waking up early on Saturday mornings to watch *Transformers*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks* and *Thundercats*. Sadly, those days are gone, and children's cartoons have gone downhill ever since.

However, in 1989, a new age of animation was formed when *The Simpsons* premiered on Fox. *The Simpsons* was one of the first animated shows geared towards older audiences and paved the way for other brilliant "mature" cartoons in the years to follow.

The wonderful thing about these cartoons is how much more stimulating and clever they are when compared to modern-day sitcoms (*Scrubs* being one of the few exceptions). For example, *South Park* and *The Family Guy* demonstrate how comedy writers can fuse political and social satire with crude humor, and still be funny. That's what I call "smart comedy."

On the flip-side, there's Cartoon Network's crazy animated shows that appear nightly (except Fridays)

on *Adult Swim*. These shows are what I like to call "throw-back" or "nostalgia" cartoons. Programs such as *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*, *The Venture Bros.* and *Robot Chicken* are filled with pop-culture references from the days of yore, i.e. the 1980s. Anyone remember the "Foreigner Belt" episode of *Aqua Teen*? Yeah, that was genius.

One of the best cartoons to ever appear on *Adult Swim* was *The Boondocks*. Not only was the show hilarious, but it contained some very biting social commentary, especially when it came to race. Come on, any show that has Samuel L. Jackson and Charlie Murphy doing the voices of white guys who think they're gangsters, and in one episode attempt to kidnap Oprah, deserves to be hailed as one of the greatest shows of all time.

I happen to enjoy most of these cartoons, and I hope more like them will be produced, however I do miss the sitcoms of the past. I'm still waiting for the next *M*A*S*H* or *Sanford and Son*, but for now

I'll just watch Meatwad, Shake and Frylock get into psychotic adventures with their neighbor Carl like a jukebox hero with stars in my eyes.

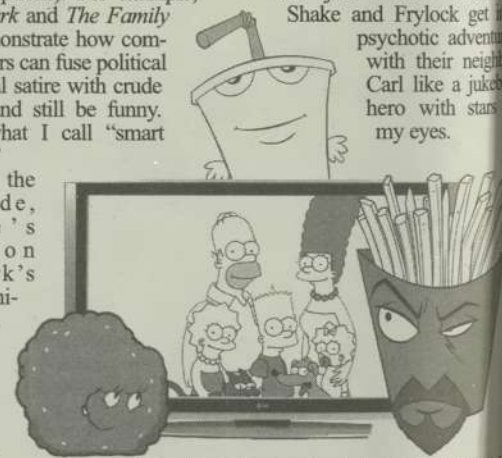


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