

FILM REVIEW: 'Despicable Me 3' Finds Gru Bonding with Long-Lost Bro before Facing Formidable Foe

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

“**D**espicable Me 3” is actually the fourth installment in the animated franchise, provided you count the prequel “Minions,” which some may consider a spinoff. Co-directed by Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda and Eric Guillon, this episode revolves around Gru (Steve Carell) who discovers that he has an identical twin before facing-off against his most formidable foe ever.

As the film unfolds, we find the reformed reprobate and wife Lucy (Kristen Wiig) being fired from by the Anti-Villain League for failing to prevent Balthazar Bratt (Trey Parker) from purloining a priceless pink diamond. FYI, Balthazar was an adorable child

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star until Hollywood had no further use for him when he hit puberty.

Embittered about being kicked to the curb, he’s ventured to the dark side and is currently bent on world domination. Yet he’s a bit of a comical figure, since he’s still emulating the character he played in the 1980s in terms of his clothes, haircut and musical taste.

Now that Gru and Lucy have joined the ranks of the unemployed, they



'Despicable Me 3'

have the time for a family outing to Fredonia to meet Dru (also voiced by Carell), the identical twin Gru never even knew he had. Other than sharing the same barrel-chested physique, the two are different as night and day. For Dru is handsome with long blond hair and

less of a Slavic accent. Plus, he’s criminally inclined, and wants nothing more than to pull a heist with his relatively-gnarly, bald brother.

However, Gru hopes to kill two birds with one stone by duping his sibling into helping him “steal” the precious gem from Balthazar. What Dru doesn’t know is that his bro just wants to get back into his boss’ (Jenny Slate) good graces by returning the stone to its

rightful owner.

While the twins embark on that quest, the other characters become embroiled in more subplots than you can shake a stick at. Gru and Lucy’s dating-age daughter, Margo (Miranda Cosgrove), inadvertently encourages an ardent admirer (Adrian Ciscato). Their younger girls, Agnes (Nev Scharrel) and Edith (Dana Gaier), wander off into the forest in search of a fabled unicorn. And the Minions land in jail after being arrested for trespassing.

The action is frenetic and the multi-stranded storyline eventually culminates in a manic finale featuring Balthazar

terrorizing Tinseltown from the turret of giant, bubblegum-spewing robot. Ninety minutes straight of the sort of overstimulation kids of the Attention-Deficit Generation crave!

Very Good ★★★

Rated PG for action and rude humor

Running time: 90 minutes

Distributor: Universal Pictures

To see a trailer for Despicable Me 3, visit TheSkanner.com



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Film

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insists he first serve as wheelman for the proverbial “last big heist” being pulled by a trio of certifiable lunatics in Bats (Foxx), Buddy (Hamm) and Darling (Eiza Gonzalez). When the robbery goes wrong, the ever-resourceful Baby’s survival instincts kick-in in a primal urge for self-preservation.

A mind-blowing roller coaster ride you’ll never want to end!

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated R for violence and pervasive profanity

Running time: 113 minutes

Production Studio: Working Title Films

Distributor: TriStar Pictures

To see a trailer for Baby Driver, visit TheSkanner.com



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