

tasty tv

BY GEORGE DICKIE

Food fight! When meals become missiles in film

Show of hands – how many of you have ever been in an actual food fight?

We thought so. Neither have we.

It seems food fights are far more common on screen than in real life, a device used mostly for comic relief that involves no special effects and doesn't cost a lot to film, save for the choreography and the clean-up. And people remember food fight scenes, no matter how good or bad the movie was.

There's no denying it makes for good entertainment and the following are films where it was done to state-of-the-art effect.

"National Lampoon's Animal House" (Tuesday, March 26, on Flix; Showtime on Demand): John Landis' raucous 1978 comedy about the antics of a 1950s college fraternity contains a classic scene in which Bluto (John Belushi), his dining hall tray overloaded, takes a mouthful of mashed potatoes and asks his table mates "See if you can guess what I am now." What happens next is what any collegian would agree is exactly what dining hall food deserves.

"Blazing Saddles" (Saturday, March 27, Ovation; streaming on Amazon): Often obscured by the campfire scene in Mel Brooks' 1974 Western spoof is the climactic food fight sequence that literally breaks the fourth wall and spills over into the commissary

on the Warner Bros. lot, sending an out-of-character Harvey Korman falling out onto a Burbank, Calif., street and into a passing cab.

"Little Darlings" (Streaming on CBS All Access): A little spilled milk between frenemies Angel and Ferris (Kristy McNichol, Tatum O'Neal) escalates into a cafeteria-wide war of flying pancakes and oatmeal in director Ron Maxwell's 1980 teen comedy about the denizens of a girls summer camp. Pay attention and you'll recognize a 13-year-old Cynthia Nixon among the combatants.

"Hook" (Streaming on Netflix): The flying pastel-hued comestibles may be unidentifiable and unappetizing-looking in Steven Spielberg's 1991 adventure comedy about Peter Pan's (Robin Williams) quest to save his kidnapped children from Captain Hook (Dustin Hoffman). But it certainly makes for bold swatches of color that look great on the big screen.

"The Great Race" (Streaming on Amazon): An all-star cast including Jack Lemmon, Natalie Wood, Tony Curtis and Peter Falk wind up covered in marzipan and butter cream frosting when a misstep into a giant cake devolves into an all-out battle of airborne confections in a bakery scene in Blake Edwards' 1965 action comedy about an epic automobile race.

John Belushi in
"National Lampoon's
Animal House"



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