

AN HILARIOUS COMEDY

By SYLVIA TRAIN



SPIES LIKE US

Dan Aykroyd and Chevy Chase

Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd have a lot in common. They're both comics and writers who shot to fame on *Saturday Night Live* and made a successful transition to movies.

The two zany stars are together again in the film *Spies Like Us*. They play two bumbling, inept characters who cheat on a government test to get promoted. When discovered, the officials decide to use them as disposable decoys for a dangerous mission. They are parachuted into mid-Europe and slipped across the border into Russia where they discover they're to be killed off by the Soviets.

They also discover U.S. officials are attempting to fire death-dealing missiles at Russia and the Russians are aiming similar weapons at the United States. Our heroes decide to devise a way to stop nuclear warfare.

Can they do it?!!

Aykroyd, a native of Quebec, was known as "The Mouth" at the Catholic grade school he attended because of his incessant wisecracks and imitations. He was constantly in trouble with the nuns who ran the school and was finally expelled.

He majored in criminology at Ottawa's Carleton University, worked at the post office on the side, went north where he worked as a rod man in a Department of Public Works crew in Fort Simpson and planned on going into the civil service. But fate stepped in when a girl friend who sang pushed him into doing a little stand-up in clubs.

Aykroyd still feels more comfortable with the people he worked with at the post office and other jobs. They are a network of friends he's never said goodbye to. Those friendships are the ones that keep his feet on the ground despite his success and fame. It's the balance his partner John Belushi lacked.

He's come a long way since the seventies when he started at Toronto's *Second City*. It wasn't too long before *Saturday Night Live's* producer Lorne Michaels spotted him and the rest is history. His pals from *SNL* days are still the ones he continually works with. Bill Murray and Harold Ramis were his co-stars in the blockbuster movie *Ghostbusters*, also co-written by Aykroyd. He also co-wrote *Spies Like Us* with the two successful film writers of *Splash* Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel.



Privacy is very important to Aykroyd. He lives in a secure corner apartment in New York with three strong locks on the door. His house in Massachusetts is at the end of a terrible road and his cottage in Canada's North country has a lake on one side and a stretch of land on the other.

He's lived through making some stinkers, *Neighbors* and *Doctor Detroit* but with his kind of writing and acting talent he doesn't have to worry. He knows he can come up with a project that could take off again like *Ghostbusters*. He's writing another comedy with his *Trading Places* co-star Eddie Murphy in mind and a comedy vehicle for comedian-actor John Candy.

His *Spies Like Us* co-star Chevy Chase is a homebody these days, a father of two and enjoying every minute of it. He and his wife Jayni entertain at home, having friends Jane Fonda, Tom Hayden, Goldie Hawn and others over. But he wasn't always that settled.


He was born Cornelius Crane Chase, named by his grandmother after a Maryland suburb. He was able to handle troublemakers as a camp counsellor because he was one himself. That's why

he was kicked out of New York's Riverdale Country School. However, he straightened up at the progressive Stockbridge School in Massachusetts and graduated valedictorian.

When he was booked on *Saturday Night Live* in 1975 he became an instant star upstaging John Belushi, Aykroyd and the others winning two Emmys—one as an actor and one as a writer. After only one year on *SNL* Chevy made the transition to Hollywood for \$1 million a movie—the first one of that group to do so. He now makes in excess of \$2 million for each of his films.

His first movie *Foul Play* was a hit as was *Caddyshack* and *National Lampoon's Vacation*. Another feature, *Modern Problems*, grossed a quick \$25 million at the box office. It proved there's a large audience out there who'll go to see a Chevy Chase movie.

His father, now editor-in-chief of *The New York Times Books*, taught him that a sense of humor is the most important quality in life.

That's a lesson both Dan Aykroyd and Chevy Chase learned well. And as long as they keep us laughing we'll keep watching them up on the big screen. 

MOVIES

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