

 **Sarah Marrs**
Lainey Gossip

 The actual plot doesn't really matter-there's a computer doohickey, because when is there not?-what matters is Hart and Johnson bouncing off each other.

[Full Review](#) | Oct 11, 2017

 **Jeffrey Lyles**
Lyles' Movie Files

 Really is a case of good enough. There's enough to make for an amusing comedy, but like that disappointed teacher, you know it could have been so much better.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 6/10 | Aug 21, 2017

 **Aramide Tinubu**
Shadow and Act


 Overall, Central Intelligence isn't 48 Hours... However, if you enjoy Hart's stand-up comedy, and his other numerous flicks, then you'll probably enjoy this one as well.

[Full Review](#) | Apr 12, 2017

 **Sarah Ward**
ArtsHub

 The line between endearing and over-extended is razor thin.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 2.5/5 | Jan 8, 2017

 **Stephen Kelly**
Total Film

 The leads have chemistry, but there's only so far they can elevate such obvious material.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 2/5 | Jan 2, 2017

 **Andy Lea**
Daily Star (UK)

 If you are suffering from The Brexit Blues, then watching a tiny comic repeatedly clocking a hulking muscle man around the chops could be just what the doctor ordered.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/5 | Dec 31, 2016

 **Jim Schembri**
3AW

 The enormous Dwayne Johnson teams up with the diminutive Kevin Hart for a very funny mismatched-buddy comedy that blends comic action with a strong anti-bullying message.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/5 | Dec 26, 2016

 **Tim Brayton**
Antagonist & Ecstasy

 A delight for the solitary reason that Hart and Johnson make it so.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 6/10 | Dec 4, 2016

 **Jason Best**
Movie Talk

 Who knew Dwayne Johnson was quite this funny? He's so hands-down hilarious in Central Intelligence he makes motor-mouth comedian Kevin Hart, his co-star, look like the film's straight man.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/5 | Nov 12, 2016

 **Kevin Maher**
The Times (UK)


 This is a tongue-in-cheek buddy movie that's above average, but not too far above average.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/5 | Oct 10, 2016

 **Rich Cline**
Contactmusic.com

 They make a great couple, as Dwayne Johnson's bulk cleverly contrasts with Hart's tightly wound intensity.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3.5/5 | Sep 13, 2016



James Clay
Fresh Fiction



There have been worse comedies to come out this year, but very few have been as lazy, which is essentially the antithesis of what Johnson and Hart promote.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: D+ | Dec 10, 2018



Pat Padua
DCist



The specter of [John] Hughes is all over this entertaining, clever, and finally heartwarming comedy.

[Full Review](#) | Aug 29, 2018



Alison Rowat
The Herald (Scotland)



Here's the latest attempt at finding a winning formula for a movie double act, and it's a decidedly more miss than hit affair.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 2/5 | Aug 23, 2018



Mae Abdulbaki
Movies with Mae



"Central Intelligence" has plenty of humor, a great onscreen bromance, and is really fun.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3.5/5 | Aug 22, 2018



**Lisa Johnson
Mandell**
AtHomeInHollywood.co
m



Slap my face and call me puerile, the new buddy comedy from Kevin Hart and Dwayne Johnson had me giggling and guffawing throughout... it's just plain silly fun.

[Full Review](#) | Aug 22, 2018



Nicole Homer
Black Nerd Problems



What could have easily been a throwaway comedy ended up being a heartwarming bromance with enough pop culture references to make me and the nerdy friends I went with feel right at home.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 8/10 | Jun 13, 2018



James Plath
Family Home Theater



Hart and Johnson actually pair up nicely, and Central Intelligence is a fun action-comedy largely because of their antics and the chemistry that they manage.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: B- | Jan 16, 2018



Robert Kojder
Flickering Myth



Remember how The Rock used to bully Jonathan Coachman during every interview, convincing him to make an ass of himself every single episode of Raw? Replace Coach with Kevin Hart and you have Central Intelligence

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/5 | Dec 5, 2017



Renuka Vyawahare
The Times of India



Speaking of comedy, the punches and the Black guy jokes are silly. The action scenes are decent and work to certain extent but the film is avoidable on the whole as it lacks 'intelligence'.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 2.5/5 | Nov 7, 2017



Devesh Sharma
Filmfare



The film's deft pace, its frenzied silliness, punchy wisecracks coupled with the Johnson and Hart's deft handling of the situational comedy holds your interests despite the threadbare plot.

[Full Review](#) | Oct 31, 2017



Matthew Bond
The Mail on Sunday
(UK)



It helps that he's working with Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, a man-mountain with an unexpected gift for comedy, but the fact is – I never thought I'd write this – Hart is emerging as a genuinely funny guy.



Grant Watson
Fiction Machine



Unfortunately the film falls very flat. The jokes feel tired and it struggles to make an impact.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 4/10 | Oct 23, 2025



Zach Pope
Zach Pope Reviews



Really Fun Film that makes you laugh not all the time though

[Full Review](#) | Aug 7, 2023



Matt Brunson
Film Frenzy



The artist formerly known as The Rock has long since proven that he has more natural acting chops than any other former muscleman-turned-thespian (sorry, Arnie), and he's absolutely riotous here.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/4 | Aug 18, 2021



Mike Massie
Gone With The Twins



Even as an excuse to provide opportunities for Johnson and Hart to play off of their disparities, the formulaic superspy gimmick is exhausting.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 5/10 | Dec 4, 2020



Richard Propes
TheIndependentCritic
.com



It should come as no surprise that director Rawson Marshall Thurber seriously plays up the vast differences in size and physique between Hart and Johnson.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3.0/4.0 | Sep 5, 2020



Dan Scully
Cinema76



Central Intelligence is very dumb, very weird, and plot-heavy to a fault, but it's also light-hearted, well-intentioned, and frequently very funny.

[Full Review](#) | Apr 1, 2020



Tim Brennan
About Boulder



Hart and Johnson are playing variations of characters they've done before, and while they're hardly stretching themselves, they're doing what they do well.

[Full Review](#) | Feb 13, 2020



Dominic Griffin
Spectrum Culture



Central Intelligence isn't groundbreaking, but it's a well-structured piece of fluff arranged around the right amount of substantive story beats.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3.5/5 | Jul 17, 2019



Joni Blyth
One Room With A View



While the only award it will win this year is best tagline, Central Intelligence proves that a little Hart and a big Johnson makes a lot of fun.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 3/5 | Mar 29, 2019



Allen Adams
The Maine Edge



The narrative may be lacking, but the Rock [Dwayne Johnson] and [Kevin] Hart more than make up for it with their combined talents.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: 4/5 | Feb 19, 2019



Micheal Compton
Bowling Green Daily News



Central Intelligence isn't going to be on anyone's list of the best films of the year, but it is definitely a good way to spend a lazy summer night – especially if you want to laugh.

[Full Review](#) | Original Score: B- | Jan 15, 2019