

= Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps =

Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps (also known as Wall Street 2 or Wall Street 2 : Money Never Sleeps) is a 2010 American drama film directed by Oliver Stone , a sequel to Wall Street (1987) . It stars Michael Douglas , Shia LaBeouf , Josh Brolin , Carey Mulligan , Frank Langella , Susan Sarandon and , in his final film role before his death in 2014 , Eli Wallach .

The film takes place in New York , 23 years after the original , and revolves around the 2008 financial crisis . Its plot centers on a reformed Gordon Gekko , played by Douglas , acting as an antihero rather than a villain , and follows his attempts to repair his relationship with his daughter Winnie (Mulligan) , with the help of her fiancé , Jacob (LaBeouf) .

Principal photography took place in New York between September and November 2009 . After having its release date moved twice , Money Never Sleeps was released theatrically worldwide on September 24 , 2010 , by 20th Century Fox . Prior to its official release , many journalists connected to the financial industry were reportedly shown advance screenings of the film .

Despite opening to positive reception at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival , Money Never Sleeps received polarized reviews from critics , who generally praised the acting , but considered it an unnecessary sequel . Though failing to meet its critical expectations , the film was successful at the box office , topping the United States 's ranking during its opening weekend , and earning a worldwide total of \$ 134 million in ticket sales , and more than \$ 15 million on DVD .

= = Plot = =

In 2001 , Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) is released from prison after serving eight years for insider trading and securities fraud . Seven years later , Gekko is promoting his new book Is Greed Good ? , warning about the coming economic downturn . His estranged daughter , Winnie (Carey Mulligan) , runs a small , non @-@ profit news website and is dating Jacob Moore (Shia LaBeouf) , a top proprietary trader at Keller Zabel Investments (KZI) . Jacob is a protégé of managing director Louis Zabel (Frank Langella) , and is trying to raise money for a fusion research project which would create massive amounts of clean energy for the world . Jake is also financially assisting his mother (Susan Sarandon) , who has begun a new career selling real estate .

When the recession of 2008 hits , Keller Zabel 's stock loses more than 50 % of its value . Louis Zabel tries to arrange a bailout for KZI from other Wall Street banks but is blocked by Bretton James (Josh Brolin) , head of rival firm Churchill Schwartz , which Louis Zabel had refused to bail out eight years earlier . Zabel kills himself by jumping in front of a subway train because he cannot handle the stress and embarrassment of losing his company .

A distraught Jacob proposes marriage to Winnie , who accepts , then attends a lecture given by Gordon Gekko and introduces himself afterward . Gekko tells him that Keller Zabel 's collapse started when rumors of the company having toxic debt started to spread . Jacob and Gekko arrange a trade : Jacob will try to reconcile Winnie 's and Gekko 's relationship , and Gekko will gather information to destroy Bretton 's career to seek revenge for Zabel 's suicide .

Jake , aided by Gekko , learns that Bretton James profited from the Keller Zabel collapse . In revenge , Jake spreads rumors about the nationalization of an Equatorial Guinea oil field owned by Churchill Schwartz . The company loses \$ 120 million , but Bretton offers Jake a job , impressed by his initiative . In his new position , Jake convinces Chinese investors to fund the fusion research by Dr. Masters (Austin Pendleton) he has been supporting . Bretton is impressed even more .

Jake attends a fundraiser with Winnie and pays for a seat at a table for Gekko priced at \$ 10 @, @ 000 . Gekko confronts Bretton about what he did to him and also to Zabel . Bretton mocks him that no one cares what Gekko knows or thinks anymore . Gekko also bumps into Bud Fox (Charlie Sheen) , and they discuss their shared experience going to jail . Gekko then follows Winnie outside , where she explains why she blames him for everything that went wrong , particularly her brother Rudy 's suicide . Gekko claims he paid for the best therapists and even paid off a drug dealer to stop selling to Rudy , who died from an overdose . Winnie forgives him somewhat .

As the economy starts to crumble , Bretton and business mentor Julius Steinhardt (Eli Wallach)

advise federal regulators what drastic actions must be taken . Jake 's mother continues to come to him for large sums of money . Winnie then announces to Jake she is pregnant with a boy . After riding motorcycles together , Bretton reveals to Jake that the Chinese investment is going into solar panels and fossil fuels instead of fusion research , leaving Jake furious and feeling betrayed .

Gekko proposes a solution , using a \$ 100 million trust fund account in Switzerland , which Gekko set up for Winnie in the 1980s , to fund the research and save the company . She signs the money over to Jake , who then entrusts it to Gekko to legitimize the funds for investment in the fusion research company . However , the money never arrives , and Gekko betrays his daughter and Jake by leaving the country with Winnie 's \$ 100 million . Jake realizes that Gekko has been using him to get the money in the account for his own gain . Winnie then tells Jake to leave , no longer trusting him .

Gekko is now in London , running a hugely successful hedgefund @-@ like financial company , capitalized by the \$ 100 million . Jake travels there to propose one last trade : Winnie gets her money back , and Gekko can participate in his grandson 's life . Gekko , however , refuses .

Jake pieces together everything from Keller Zabel 's collapse to the economic bailout of Bretton 's company and gives the information to Winnie , telling her that revealing it will bring her website publicity and credibility . Winnie runs the story , and Bretton James is exposed . The investors , including Steinhardt , promptly abandon Bretton and go to Gekko on the back of his \$ 1 @. @ 1 billion return as Bretton finds himself under intense legal scrutiny by the government .

Jake has successfully reunited with Winnie in New York , when late one night Gekko appears and tells them that he deposited \$ 100 million into the fusion research 's account anonymously . He apologizes to them . One year later , Gekko is seen at his grandson Louis 's first birthday party , along with Jacob 's mother and Jacob and Winnie 's friends .

= = Cast = =

= = Characters = =

Michael Douglas reprises his role as Gordon Gekko , which won him an Academy Award after the original film . Gekko has recently been released from prison and , after a failed attempt to warn business leaders of the imminent economic downturn , he decides to try to rebuild a relationship with his estranged daughter Winnie .

Shia LaBeouf portrays Jacob " Jake " Moore , an ambitious , young proprietary trader who works for Keller Zabel Investments , and is in a relationship with Winnie . LaBeouf 's role in the film has been said to be a role similar to that of Charlie Sheen 's in the original . The young actor said he was able to relate to his character 's background and found similarities in their motivations . Initially the actor was intimidated by the idea of working on a film that was going to stretch his dramatic abilities and came to the film set with a different approach , which was that if he disappointed his fans twice , his career was finished after making two recently panned sequels .

LaBeouf stated that , during his first meeting with Stone , the director was " really expedient about killing any ego or conceit on my part " , saying not to worry because Tom Cruise was not an actor when he first worked with him either , which LaBeouf considered a knife to his heart . LaBeouf said that he did not know what a credit derivative is or what a CP , LP , or LVC were , commenting " You gotta know ticker names . " He also said that he has " no concept " of the " ins and outs of the financial world " and , as part of getting into character , he chose to stay thin to be like hedge funders . To prepare for the film he traded with different firms , playing with up to \$ 1 million and became so interested in trading that he began studying for the Series 7 Exam .

Josh Brolin plays Bretton James , head of the Churchill Schwartz investment bank , whom Jacob blames for the death of his mentor . Bretton has been described as being a villain . Bretton is presented as a " new style " version of Gekko in the film . Javier Bardem was in final talks to play the character ; in July 2009 it was confirmed that he had turned down the project in favor of a film adaptation of the book Eat , Pray , Love , with Julia Roberts . Brolin took the part and lost 30 pounds

in a month to prepare physically for this part . The actor , acknowledging that every character had both good and bad in them , viewed Bretton as being on a " higher level , " adding that he liked the ambition his character had and that he was an opportunist .

Carey Mulligan was cast as Winnie Gekko , Gordon 's estranged daughter and Jacob 's fiancée . Winnie has not spoken to her father since his imprisonment ; she blames Gordon for the suicide of her drugged @-@ out brother , Rudy . The character has been said to be the " moral center of the story " and described as being liberal , and to some extent passive . Mulligan is British and had to speak with an American accent for her role . Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps was her first major studio film . When she first met Stone for the role she explained that she did not want her character to be a " token girlfriend ; " both agreed to work to make sure that would not happen . During the same encounter Stone learned that she had short hair , and he initially discussed having her wear a wig , but Mulligan said she did not feel like herself when wearing the hairpiece . Stone trusted her and made an exception . According to Mulligan , Stone cast her in the Wall Street sequel based on her performance in An Education (2009) .

Frank Langella was cast as Louis Zabel . His death " ultimately leads the characters to discover the shady practices " of James 's hedge fund . Susan Sarandon portrays Sylvia Moore , Jacob 's real @-@ estate agent mother who is just as consumed by greed as Gekko is , but in a different sense . Audrey , a " tough , intelligent trader in the Wall Street trenches " , is portrayed by Vanessa Ferlito . John Buffalo Mailer plays Jacob 's Long Island financier friend , Robby and Eli Wallach plays the part of Jules Steinhardt , a Churchill Schwartz top executive and Wall Street patriarch who considers the current economic climate to be like the 1929 stock market crash . Pressman deemed the actor 's role as the " crier of doom , " who , " reveals just how much more devastating things can be today . " Charlie Sheen reprised his role of Bud Fox , Gekko 's former protégé , whom he meets briefly at a cocktail party . Sylvia Miles reprised her role as a real estate agent from the first film .

Television personality Natalie Morales , Vanity Fair magazine editor Graydon Carter , economist Nouriel Roubini , financier Warren Buffett and director Stone 's mother have minor roles in the film . Jim Cramer also makes a brief appearance after Stone cast him because he was a former hedge fund manager . Stone , who had a cameo in the first film , plays a similarly brief role in Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps . He wanted to give the young LaBeouf " some older connections " that would " give it weight " in the movie . Donald Trump and Julianne Michelle played minor parts , but Trump 's scene was cut from the final version (it is instead available on the DVD) . Stone said the scene was too " distracting " for the ending . Program host Neil Cavuto appears in the sequel for several seconds . A longer scene that involved him was cut ; a representative for Stone clarified that his decision was an aesthetic , not political , choice . Roger Hendricks Simon , a director @-@ actor , landed a part acting as a thinly veiled version of former AIG CEO Hank Greenberg . Like Trump 's part , his scenes were not included but are in the film 's DVD version .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

In early 2007 , The New York Times reported that a sequel to Wall Street , then tentatively titled Money Never Sleeps , had entered pre @-@ production and was in the early stages of development with a screenplay by Stephen Schiff of The New Yorker . Shortly after the film was confirmed , Douglas was reported to be interested in reprising his role as Gordon Gekko , depending on the script . In October 2008 , 20th Century Fox announced that it had officially green @-@ lit the film and would serve as a distributor . In the same month it was announced that Allan Loeb had been approached to write a script that was being referred to as a " page one rewrite " , meaning that he would be starting " from scratch " . Shortly after the film had entered pre @-@ production it was announced that both Charlie Sheen and Daryl Hannah would not be involved with the sequel for unknown reasons . Despite stating that Sheen was not going to return , Stone confirmed he would briefly reprise his role as Bud , which would be worked into the script .

Around May 2007 , The New York Times reported that Stone had turned down the opportunity to direct the film , even after months of being pressured to do so by Douglas , among others . However , in April 2009 Fox confirmed that Stone would be returning as both director and producer , alongside Douglas and Edward R. Pressman . Stone stated that he reconsidered passing on directing the film after the stock market crash . The film was co -@-@ produced by Eric Kopeloff with Alessandro Camen and Celia D. Costas serving as executive producers . In addition to screenwriter Loeb , the film 's overall writer is Schiff . Bryan Burrough received credit as a consultant , and may have done uncredited work on the story .

At the time of the film 's announcement the plot details were kept under wraps , but Loeb later confirmed that its plot would primarily focus on Gekko , recently released from prison and re @-@ entering a much more " chaotic " financial world than the one he once oversaw from the previous film . Its budget was reported to be between \$ 60 million (\$ 50 million with the tax credits) and \$ 70 million . Money Never Sleeps was being used as the film 's working title before being renamed Wall Street 2 at the director 's request and finally changed to Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps . As part of research for the film , Douglas and Stone had a dinner meeting with Samuel D. Waksal , the founder of the bio @-@ pharmaceutical company ImClone Systems , who spent five years in federal prison for securities fraud . LaBeouf , along with Stone , discussed the financial collapse with multiple hedge fund managers .

Early in mid @-@ 2009 , Stone took LaBeouf to a cocktail party organized by Nouriel Roubini , a New York University economics professor and chairman of a consulting firm . There , Stone and LaBeouf discussed the financial collapse with Roubini and also discussed hedge fund managers who are clients of Roubini 's firm . Roubini said that " in this financial crisis it was the traditional banks and the investment banks that had a larger role in doing stupid and silly things than the hedge funds . " Stone also stated that he had conversations with Jim Chanos , a prominent hedge fund manager who had urged him to focus less on hedge funds and more on the banking system , Chanos said , " there was a much more important story , a bigger story , in what happened with the system . "

= = = Writing = = =

In October 2008 , 20th Century Fox confirmed that Allan Loeb , who is a licensed stock broker , had been selected to re @-@ write the script . Stanley Weiser had worked on a treatment for a sequel set in the present with Gekko being released from jail ; the second part would be set in China . The studio felt that the material was dated , and put the project in turnaround . Stone had a falling out with Pressman , the producer , and began work on W. with Weiser . Weiser 's treatment for Wall Street Two was discarded and the film began taking shape from an original script by Stephen Schiff . It was reported that Aaron Sorkin had turned down the opportunity to work on the film 's script .

During December 2008 , while still in the process of drafting , Loeb said that he had been riveted by the Bernie Madoff headlines and showed interest in referencing him in the film , noting : " the thing that is so crazy about this story is that Ponzi schemes seem to be the simplest low @-@ class scam , " and " but this was carried out in the highest echelon of high finance . You couldn 't even get in to see this guy unless you had \$ 2 million to invest . " Stone clarified that Madoff will not be mentioned in the film , commenting that he considered Madoff 's actions to be " a crook running a Ponzi scheme " which is " legal robbery . " The filmmaker returned to the project in April on the strength of this script , feeling Loeb 's draft was " so great " that he did not feel the need to touch it , although he did have the option .

Sometime in early June , Loeb reportedly handed in his second draft of the film to Fox , and in July , was finalizing the screenplay . Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps is based in four locations ; New York , London , the United Arab Emirates , and an Asian country . One of the character consultants to the new film will be billionaire Vincent Tchenguiz . Pressman said that Tchenguiz had modeled Gekko but did admit that Gekko was " partly Milken " and that Gekko will be a more outwardly altruistic figure but , admits , " a leopard doesn 't change its spots , despite appearances . " Pressman said of the origin of the film 's subtitle : " Wall Street was New York @-@ centric . Today

the markets are much more global , hence the title of the new film , Money Never Sleeps . " He described Gekko 's involvement in the film as being " larger than life " .

It was reported that Loeb had taken advice from a " number of real Wall Street movers and shakers " to ensure " horrifying accuracy " for the film 's script . Of the re @-@ writes done to script , Stone said : " We sort of started over with the story of a young man who is at the center of it , and how he needs Gordon Gekko 's help to navigate those waters . " In a reference to the GEICO Gecko commercial , which was suggested by New York Governor David Paterson , Gekko says " even a caveman could do it " in the movie . At the request of Mulligan and LaBeouf , the filmmaker cut some dialogue from the character 's break @-@ up scenes , which he at first was initially hesitant to do .

Stone said that the film will provide more of a social commentary and admitted that he had never expected high finance to " serve again as a tableau for his storytelling " . He also added that its plot will showcase the unemployment rate at an all @-@ time high and the " our national debt ever climbing . " Discussing the difference between Wall Street and its sequel , the director explained , " In the other movie , Charlie Sheen is corrupt at the beginning and he finds a path to integrity . In this movie , it starts out the other way . Shia and Carey are idealists . And their idealism is being threatened . " A writer for USA Today believed that the film 's story line " attempts to put the complicated financial schemes that led to the worldwide economic collapse on a human scale . "

= = = Filming = = =

A shift in location in the sequel reflected some of the changes in the world since then : while the New York Stock Exchange and its trading floor had featured heavily in the first film , they are less prominent in the second . Instead , more time is spent at the Federal Reserve Building , reflecting its new position as a " bulwark of the system " according to Stone . The location provided a link to the contemporary crisis the film examines , since September 2008 it has been an important site for meeting on the crisis .

Although August 10 was reportedly the start date , principal photography began on September 9 . The filmmaker continued to make additions to the script and meet with financial consultants about the project whilst filming . Mulligan was able to film all of her scenes in 15 days . Stone said that they were on schedule and on budget , but claimed that the constantly changing weather was a problem for filming . He also said that the filming on location process was similar to the first film . While filming , LaBeouf said that Douglas was an " opened wound on the set " due to his oldest son 's arrest in July for drug trafficking , adding that Stone filmed a " struggling " Douglas .

Charlie Sheen was able to shoot his scene in one day and described being on set with the director and Douglas as strange , with Stone adding that it was difficult for the actor . Sheen reportedly had trouble remembering his lines and required some prodding to remember his cue during the party scene in which Gekko encounters Fox . Although eager to meet him , LaBeouf did not interact with Sheen on set per request . Regarding working with the director , who has a reputation for being demanding on his cast , Douglas described him as being mellow , but acknowledged that " it 's still always a workout with him . " " Everyone was very friendly , but the scene work felt dangerous , " LaBeouf recalls of the on @-@ set atmosphere . " These guys aren 't going to coddle you . Douglas was the one who comforted me . And I 've never gone deeper with a director than Oliver . He 's the Easter bunny and Orson Welles in one man . " The young actor further discussed Stone 's work ethic on @-@ set with him , saying :

We 'd be on the street [filming] , and Oliver would just say , " Go to that bar , get fucked @-@ up , and come back . " I 'd walk over , get smashed , and go back to work . He would really fuck with me when I was smashed . I get aggressive when I 'm smashed , and he 'd film that . He would just open you up completely , make you fucking naked ? and then call , " Action ! " "

Douglas filmed the opening scene , which is Gekko being released from Sing Sing maximum @-@ security prison , in Ossining , Westchester County , on September 18 . Stone felt that the prison scene was a " key plot element " because there is no one there to meet Gekko , who returns to society as an outsider . Regarding there being no scenes that show Gekko adjusting to the modern

world , the director clarified that there is " very little space to do those kind of tricks in this movie " because of how modern the world is becoming on a monthly basis . Filming took place in Fordham University for the classroom scenes on October 10 and 11 . In order to shoot a dining scene between LaBeouf and Douglas , Shun Lee West closed for 24 hours so the two could film scenes at the restaurant for the entire day of November 10 . Brolin and Stone found extras simply by asking workers , at places like RdV , if they would like to be a part of the sequel .

= = Soundtrack = =

The soundtrack to the film was released on September 21 , 2010 , through Todo Mundo . The album features numerous songs by David Byrne , including several tracks from his 2008 collaboration with Brian Eno , Everything That Happens Will Happen Today .

= = = Track listing = = =

- " Prison " (Craig Armstrong)
- " Home " (David Byrne and Brian Eno)
- " Life Is Long " (David Byrne and Brian Eno)
- " Sleeping Up " (David Byrne)
- " Strange Overtones " (David Byrne and Brian Eno)
- " Money " (Craig Armstrong)
- " My Big Nurse " (David Byrne and Brian Eno)
- " Helicopter Reveal " (Craig Armstrong)
- " Tiny Apocalypse " (David Byrne)
- " Lazy " (David Byrne)
- " I Feel My Stuff " (David Byrne and Brian Eno)
- " This Must Be the Place (Naïve Melody) " (Talking Heads)

= = Release = =

= = = Marketing = = =

The film was screened out of competition during May 2010 at the Cannes Film Festival in France . Pressman thought that Cannes would be the " perfect platform to launch a film that speaks of today 's economic dilemma " . It was met with positive reviews from film critics at the festival , although numerous reviewers " objected to an ending deemed somewhat pat " . A spokesperson for Fox said that Stone had changed the ending since its screening at Cannes . Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps opened The Ischia Global Film and Music Fest , held during July 11 ? 18 . Michael Corkery of The Wall Street Journal reported that numerous journalists involved in the financial industry had been invited to see advance screenings of the film . To promote Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps , several cast members visited the NASDAQ Market site in Times Square , on September 20 and presided over the NASDAQ Opening Bell .

Also on September 20 , the movie 's New York premiere was held at the Ziegfeld Theater in midtown Manhattan . According to Deadline Hollywood the film originally had a February 2010 release date , but it was later given an April 23 , 2010 , release . In March 2010 , the film 's release date was pushed back to September 24 . Brolin stated that he hoped that audiences would wonder about the ethics of the banking industry , asking " How much is enough ? , " he concluded , " There used to be a ceiling . Now there 's no ceiling " . Surveys indicated that the main audience for the movie would be older adults who remembered the first film .

= = = Box office = = =

Money Never Sleeps opened at a total of 3 @, @ 597 theaters in the United States , earning nine million on its first day and approximately nineteen million in its opening weekend in the US , averaging \$ 5 @, @ 330 per theatre and becoming the number one movie at the box office , although falling short of studio estimates . Nonetheless it still marked one of the best openings for a Stone film . Despite an increase of thirty @-@ two screens for its second weekend , Money Never Sleeps saw a forty @-@ seven percent decrease on its earnings , falling to third place at the box office and making slightly over ten million for the week .

During the October 8 ? 10 weekend it had a further decrease , falling almost fifty @-@ five percent , earning over four million and dropping to seventh place at the box office . In its fourth week of domestic release it fell under the top ten at the box office with a revenue of more than one million , after suffering a forty @-@ eight percent decrease and seven @-@ hundred and ninety less screens . Domestically , the film made \$ 52 @. @ 4 million , and has grossed over \$ 134 @. @ 7 million worldwide .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The film 's reception was mixed , review tallying website Rotten Tomatoes reported a rating of 55 % , based on a sample of 221 reviews ; the site 's consensus reading " It 's more entertaining than many sequels , but with Oliver Stone directing , a terrific cast , and a timely storyline that picks up where the original left off , Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps should be better , " for comparison , Wall Street (1987) had achieved a 78 % positive rating . Joe Neumaier of the New York Daily News publication awarded it five out of five stars saying that it is a sharp sequel that is worthy of its investment . He also saluted the cast 's performance and noted that Douglas gives Gekko " uncounted layers as he fakes , deals and fuels fire " . Matthew Toomey of Australia 's 612 ABC Radio Brisbane gave it a B @-@ rating and said that Douglas is the film 's " biggest positive " , finding LaBeouf to be unconvincing in his role . Christy Lemire , in The Canadian Press , claimed that the film ultimately " goes soft and loses its way " and described the contrast in its final scenes as being " laughable " . Furthermore , the subplot between LaBeouf and Mulligan 's characters as unneeded and pointed out that their relationship leads viewers to wonder why Winnie , who despises Gekko , would be involved with a man who does exactly the same thing as him , which she condemns ; however , Lemire acknowledged that the movie is an uncommon sequel that seems to be both relevant and necessary and said that it proves that " greed can still be good " . Film critic Colin Newton of the Brisbane Sunday Mail felt that the plot lacked the enthusiasm of the first film . Along the same lines , Village Voice contributor Nick Pinkerton pointed out that the Wall Street sequel did not have the " clean , fable @-@ like arc " formula of its predecessor .

Kirk Honeycutt of The Hollywood Reporter said that the film succeeded in being one of the good sequels in a while , but that Stone " gets too fancy here and there " , the film 's " heavy reliance on multiple screens , graphics and digital tricks makes it feel like one is watching CNN with all its computer @-@ screen busyness . " Roger Ebert , reviewing the movie in the Chicago Sun @-@ Times , noted that it ended with a better conclusion when Stone had edited the film after its Cannes viewing , but still felt it was a little too long . He considered the film to be sophisticated and said its photography was aesthetically pleasing but stated he wanted it to be " outraged . " In The Guardian Peter Bradshaw gave the film two out of five stars , commenting that " despite the pious waffle about market craziness being like cancer , no one is ever shown enduring the actual misery of losing money . " Writing for Time magazine , Richard Corliss stated that the film has the " drive , luxe and sarcastic wit of the snazziest Hollywood movies . " David Edelstein , writing in New York Magazine , described the film as being " full of promise , with minuscule returns . " He concluded that , like Stone 's other recent work , it is difficult to distinguish what the project 's focus is supposed to be . New Zealand Herald 's Russell Baillie gave it two and a half out of five stars , with the verdict for the film being that it falls flat of its expectations and hype .

Joe Morgenstern from The Wall Street Journal wrote that the movie manages to keep a hold on its audience 's attention . He thought that Douglas measured up to Gekko 's standards in the film , believing that he was the only actor to sustain a " sense of nasty fun " , and felt that LaBeouf 's

effectiveness was within the range of the film @-@ maker 's direction , but was unimpressed with Brolin 's portrayal of James . He concluded that the script takes an unconvincing jab at Gekko 's " spiritual regeneration , " which was due to a scene that he considered to be " inherently illogical and emotionally inert . " The Daily Telegraph 's David Gritten said that Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps lacked the " punch " of the original film and was annoyed by the number of cameos throughout the film . Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps received three out of five stars from Stephen Lambrechts of IGN Australia . Lambrechts felt that Stone 's growth as a film director might mirror Gekko 's as a person ; having had used time to calm down over the years and settle into a more relaxed state of being . He concluded that the film 's final result is not " quite the incendiary attack that it could have been , but it still has plenty to say while also managing to be an entertaining crowd pleaser . "

In contrast to the film 's detractors , Boxoffice Magazine journalist Pete Hammond said the film was " brilliantly cast " and labeled it a " crackerjack powerhouse of a movie that shines a light on the financial machinations " . He stated that Douglas does not lose any of the substance of Gekko and LaBeouf is firm as Jacob . The writer predicted the Wall Street sequel 's box office performance would be brisk , while the prospects were assured on DVD . Andrew O 'Hehir 's of Salon.com reviewed the film from Cannes , calling it an " ambitious , uneven , surprisingly talky melodrama , which mixes a quasi @-@ documentary approach to the crash of 2008 with the story . " O 'Hehir 's considered the film to express a more " personal , intimate sense of moral hazard " . Marshall Fine , writing in the Huffington Post , viewed the film as an " overstuffed blend of agitprop and melodrama " that contains a cautionary story pertaining to unchecked capitalism . He considered Stone to be proclaiming a message of the " cancerous effects of greed " . Bill Goodykoontz of Arizona Republic admitted that he was not surprised to see that the sequel is not as effective as its predecessor , though it was an engaging film at the top of its game when it is hostile , and less satisfying during romantic parts . He ended by saying that it is not a " great movie " , but explained that it is an " effective commentary on what greed cost " everyone . CEO of Tullett Prebon , Terry Smith , one of the largest inter @-@ dealer money brokers in the world , reviewed the movie for Today on BBC Radio 4 . He gave it three out of five saying that , although it was " a little bit corny in some respects " , it puts the events of the credit crunch into context and that " it rings reasonably true , " capturing some of the activities , the moods and the individuals quite well . "

= = = Accolades = = =

= = = Home media = = =

Wall Street : Money Never Sleeps was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray on December 21 , 2010 , in the US . Since then it has made more than \$ 15 @.@ 5 million in DVD sales revenue selling more than 983 @,@ 000 units .