

= Snakes on a Plane =

Snakes on a Plane is a 2006 American action thriller film directed by David R. Ellis and starring Samuel L. Jackson . It was released by New Line Cinema on August 18 , 2006 , in North America . The film was written by David Dalessandro , John Heffernan , and Sheldon Turner and follows the events of hundreds of snakes being released on a passenger plane in an attempt to kill a trial witness .

The film gained a considerable amount of attention before its release , forming large fanbases online and becoming an Internet phenomenon , due to the film 's title , casting , and premise . In response to the Internet fan base , New Line Cinema incorporated feedback from online users into its production , and added five days of reshooting . Before and after the film was released , it was parodied and alluded to on television shows and films , fan @-@ made videos , video games , and various forms of literature .

Released in the United States and United Kingdom on August 18 , 2006 , the film received mixed to positive reviews with 68 % of reviews positive and an average normalized score of 58 % , according to the review aggregation websites Rotten Tomatoes and Metacritic , respectively .

Despite the immense Internet buzz , the film 's gross revenue did not live up to expectations , earning US \$ 15 @.@ 25 million in its opening weekend . The film grossed US \$ 62 million worldwide before its release on home video on January 2 , 2007 .

= = Plot = =

After witnessing gangster Eddie Kim brutally beat U.S. Prosecutor Daniel Hayes to death in Hawaii , Sean Jones is escorted by FBI agents Neville Flynn and John Sanders on a Boeing 747 @-@ 400 to testify in a trial in Los Angeles . Despite increased security for the flight , Kim arranges for a time @-@ release crate full of venomous snakes to be placed in the cargo hold in an attempt to bring down the plane before it reaches Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) . To ensure the snakes attack the passengers without being provoked , he has one of his henchmen disguised as an airport ground employee spray the passengers ' leis with a special pheromone which makes the snakes highly aggressive . The crate opens midway through the flight and the snakes make their way through the cabin . A couple having sex in the bathroom , and a man using the bathroom are the first killed . The plane 's captain , Sam McKeon , investigates and fixes an electrical short , but is killed by the viper that caused it . Co @-@ pilot Rick , unaware of the snake , believes Sam has suffered a heart attack and continues toward LAX .

Some of the snakes attack Rick , and while fending them off he accidentally releases the oxygen masks throughout the plane , causing several snakes to drop into the cabin with them . Numerous passengers , including Agent Sanders , are killed when the snakes invade the cabin . The surviving passengers , who have made their way to the front of the plane , put up blockades of luggage in a desperate attempt to stop the snakes . Rick is attacked and the plane starts to dip downwards , causing a food trolley to crash through the luggage blockade . The passengers flee to the upstairs first class cabin before blocking the stairwell with an inflatable liferaft . Agent Flynn and Flight Attendant Claire regain control of the plane . Rick retakes the controls and has Flynn go into the cargo hold to restore the air conditioning / ventilation system . Agent Flynn contacts FBI Special Agent Hank Harris on the ground , who gets in touch with ophiologist Dr. Steven Price (Louiso) , Customs ' main source for animal smuggling cases . Based on pictures of the reptiles emailed to him via a passenger 's mobile phone , Price believes a Los Angeles snake dealer known for illegally importing exotic and highly dangerous snakes to be responsible . After a shootout , the dealer is bitten by one of his snakes and Harris withholds the antivenom if he does not give them details . The dealer finally reveals that Kim hired him to obtain the snakes and adds how the latter managed to smuggle them on board the plane . Price injects antivenom to the injured dealer and he commandeers the dealer 's supply of antivenom for the plane 's victims based on the list given to him , while Harris gives orders to have Eddie Kim arrested on multiple counts of murder and attempted murder .

Harris contacts Flynn , telling him that anti @-@ venom will be ready for the passengers when they land . However , Flynn discovers that the cockpit is filled with snakes and Rick is dead . After a brief discussion , Troy , Three Gs ' bodyguard , agrees to land the plane based on prior experience . After everyone gets prepared , Flynn shoots out two windows with his pistol , causing the plane to depressurize . The snakes are blown out of the cockpit and the lower floor of the plane . Flynn and Troy take the controls of the plane and Troy reveals that his flight experience was from a video game flight simulator . Despite his lack of real @-@ world experience , after Troy makes an emergency landing , the plane makes it to the terminal . The passengers leave the plane and anti @-@ venom is given to those who need it . Just as Flynn and Sean are about to disembark the plane , a final snake jumps out and bites Sean in the chest . Flynn draws his gun and shoots the snake , and paramedics rush to Sean , who is unharmed due to a bulletproof vest . As a token of gratitude , Sean later takes Flynn to Bali and teaches him how to surf .

= = Cast = =

Samuel L. Jackson as Agent Neville Flynn , an FBI agent assigned to protect Sean Jones on his flight to Los Angeles .

Julianna Margulies as Claire Miller , a flight attendant .

Nathan Phillips as Sean Jones , a surfer and dirtbike racer who witnesses a brutal murder committed by Eddie Kim .

Bobby Cannavale as Special Agent Henry " Hank " Harris , Flynn 's contact in Los Angeles .

Flex Alexander as Clarence " Three Gs " , a famous rapper who is germophobic , keeps a bottle of hand sanitizer with him , and refuses to be touched by others .

Todd Louiso as Dr. Steven Price , a snake venom expert assigned by the FBI to communicate with Flynn .

Sunny Mabrey as Tiffany , a flight attendant who develops a crush on Sean .

Kenan Thompson as Troy , Clarence 's bodyguard .

Rachel Blanchard as Mercedes , a socialite passenger who brings her pet Chihuahua Mary @-@ Kate aboard .

Lin Shaye as Grace , the senior flight attendant who acts as the flight 's purser .

David Koechner as Richard " Rick " , Captain McKeon 's co @-@ pilot .

Elsa Pataky as Maria , a female passenger who brings her infant son aboard .

Keith Dallas as Big Leroy , Clarence 's bodyguard .

Tom Butler as Captain Samuel " Sam " McKeon , the captain of the plane .

Byron Lawson as Eddie Kim , a crime syndicate leader .

Taylor Kitsch as Kyle , a young man who boards the plane with his girlfriend .

Samantha McLeod as Kelly , a young woman who boards the plane with her boyfriend .

Kevin McNulty as Emmett Bradley , an air traffic tower controller .

= = Development = =

The story is credited to David Dalessandro , a University of Pittsburgh administrator and first @-@ time Hollywood writer . He developed the concept in 1992 after reading a nature magazine article about Indonesian brown tree snakes climbing onto planes in cargo during World War II . He originally wrote the screenplay about the brown tree snake loose on a plane , titling the film Venom . He soon revised it , expanding upon the premise to include a plague of assorted venomous snakes , then ? crediting the film Aliens ? revised it once again to include " lots of them loose in the fuselage of a plane . " Dalessandro 's third draft of Venom was turned down by more than 30 Hollywood studios in 1995 . In 1999 , a producer for MTV / Paramount showed interest in the script , followed up by New Line Studios , which took over the rights for production .

Originally , the film , under the working title " Snakes on a Plane " , was going to be directed by Hong Kong action director Ronny Yu . Jackson , who had previously worked with Yu on The 51st State , learned about the announced project in the Hollywood trade newspapers and , after talking to

Yu , agreed to sign on without reading the script based on the director , storyline , and the title .

The film 's B movie @-@ esque title generated a lot of pre @-@ release interest on the Internet . One journalist wrote that Snakes on a Plane is " perhaps the most internet @-@ hyped film of all time " . Much of the initial publicity came from a blog entry made by screenwriter Josh Friedman , who had been offered a chance to work on the script . The casting of Samuel L. Jackson further increased anticipation . At one point , the film was given the title Pacific Air Flight 121 , only to have it changed back to the working title at Samuel Jackson 's request . In August 2005 , Samuel Jackson told an interviewer , " We 're totally changing that back . That 's the only reason I took the job : I read the title . " On March 2 , 2006 , the studio reverted the title to Snakes on a Plane . New Line hired two additional writers to smooth out the screenplay .

Taking advantage of the Internet buzz for what had been a minor film in their 2006 line @-@ up , New Line Cinema ordered five days of additional shooting in early March 2006 (principal photography had wrapped in September 2005) . While re @-@ shoots normally imply problems with a film , the producers opted to add new scenes to the film to change the MPAA rating from PG @-@ 13 to R and bring it in line with growing fan expectations . The most notable addition was a revision of a catchphrase from the film that was parodied on the Internet by fans of the film , capitalizing on Samuel L. Jackson 's typically foul @-@ mouthed and violent film persona : " Enough is enough ! I have had it with these motherfucking snakes on this motherfucking plane ! " . Subsequently , the public responded favorably to this creative change and marketing strategy , leading some members of the press to speculate that " the movie has grown from something of a joke into a phenomenon " .

More than 450 snakes were used for filming to represent thirty different species of snakes . The different species include a 19 @-@ foot burmese python named Kitty (which the crew called Kong for film purposes) , a scarlet kingsnake (the non @-@ venomous double for the coral snake) , a milk snake to fill in for the Taipan (which attacks the couple having sex) , corn snakes , rattlesnakes , and mangrove snakes . About two @-@ thirds of the snakes seen throughout the film were either animatronic or CGI . The snakes that were real were mostly the non @-@ venomous ones that are never seen attacking anyone . The scenes where someone is clearly bitten were often done with animation . According to the DVD , all the snakes had production names , but only Scarface (an animated pit viper) , Peanut (a cobra) , and Kong are mentioned by name in the audio commentary . During filming , Samuel Jackson did not come into contact with any live snakes , due to a contract clause preventing snakes from being within 8 m (25 ft) of the actor . When the film was released in theaters , rumors circulated that two live western diamondback rattlesnakes had been released at a showing of the film on August 22 , 2006 , in Phoenix , Arizona . It was later revealed that one snake had made its way into the lobby of the theater on its own , and another had been found in the parking lot in a separate incident . The snakes were later released back into the desert .

= = Media coverage = =

= = = Print = = =

An illustrated book from Thunder 's Mouth Press , Snakes on a Plane : The Guide to the Internet Sssssensation by David Waldon , details the Internet phenomenon and was published July 28 , 2006 . Waldon details various viral videos relating to the film 's craze , and interviewed their producers to find out what about the film captured their attention .

= = = Music = = =

On March 16 , 2006 , New Line Cinema announced a contest on TagWorld and a website promoting the film . The contest allowed artists on TagWorld to have their music featured in the film . A flood of SoaP @-@ themed songs were submitted by artists such as Captain Ahab (who

ultimately won the contest) , Louden Swain , the Former Fat Boys , Nispy , and others . In addition , a music video for the film , " Snakes on a Plane (Bring It) " by Cobra Starship , was released on July 10 , 2006 on MTV2 's Unleashed . The music video appeared on the film 's soundtrack as well as during the film 's closing credits .

In October 2005 , Nathaniel Perry and Chris Rohan recorded an audio trailer spoof , which helped fuel the Internet buzz . Perry and Rohan recorded the " motherfucking snakes " line in the audio trailer which was added to the film during the week of re @-@ shoots . In July 2006 , New Line Cinema signed a worldwide licensing agreement with the Cutting Corporation to produce an audiobook of the film .

= = = Television = = =

Beginning in May 2006 , episodes of The Daily Show with Jon Stewart and its sister show The Colbert Report contained references to Snakes on a Plane 's title , the catchphrase , and general premise . On August 15 , 2006 , Samuel L. Jackson guest featured on The Daily Show , opening with the film 's catchphrase . Keith Olbermann featured stories about the film and Internet buzz several times on his MSNBC news program Countdown . In addition , G4 's Attack of the Show ! featured a semi @-@ regular segment entitled " Snakes on a Plane : An Attack of the Show Investigation " , and had a week dedicated to the film which included interviews and the appearance of hundreds of snakes on set .

= = = Internet = = =

Snakes on a Plane generated considerable buzz on the Internet after Josh Friedman 's blog entry and mentions on several Internet portals . The title inspired bloggers to create songs , apparel , poster art , pages of fan fiction , parody films , mock movie trailers , and short film parody competitions . On July 6 , 2006 , the official Snakes on a Plane website started a promotional sweepstakes called " The # 1 Fan King Cobra Sweepstakes " . The contest made innovative use of the publicity @-@ generating potential of the Internet , requiring contestants to post links on forums , blogs , and websites and collecting votes from the users of those sites .

Many of the early fan @-@ made trailers and later other viral videos and commercials circulated via YouTube , and captured media attention there with such titles as : Cats on a Plane (which was featured in Joel Siegel 's review of Snakes on a Plane on Good Morning America) , Snakes Who Missed the Plane , All Your Snakes Are Belong To Us (a spoof of the All your base are belong to us phenomenon) , Steaks on a Train , and Badgers on a Plane (a spoof of " Badger Badger Badger ") . Several websites also held contests about the film in fan @-@ submitted short films and posters .

In August 2006 , Varitalk launched an advertising campaign in which fans could send a semi @-@ personalized message in Samuel Jackson 's voice to telephone numbers of their choosing . Within the first week , over 1 @.@ 5 million calls were sent to participants .

= = = Previews = = =

In June 2006 , New Line commissioned famed UK audio @-@ visual film remixers and chop @-@ up artists Addictive TV to cut and sample Snakes on a Plane to create trailers for the U.S. television networks . The official teaser trailer premiered before X @-@ Men : The Last Stand , and the first official trailer appeared online on June 26 , 2006 . Another trailer circulated in July 2006 , showing several of the snake attacks and a missing pilot and co @-@ pilot . Rotten Tomatoes had video clips of the official trailers , as well as fan @-@ made trailers .

During a July 21 , 2006 panel discussion at the Comic @-@ Con Convention in San Diego , California , a preview clip from the film was shown to a crowd of more than 6 @,@ 500 people . The panel included actors Samuel L. Jackson and Kenan Thompson , director David R. Ellis , and snake @-@ handler Jules Sylvester .

= = Release = =

Snakes on a Plane debuted on August 18 , 2006 . The film opened in 3 @, @ 555 theaters and had some late @-@ night screenings on August 17 . In a move meant to exploit the attention from the film , a straight @-@ to @-@ DVD Z @-@ movie horror film with a supernatural twist , Snakes on a Plane , was released on August 15 , 2006 , three days before the film 's theatrical release .

= = = Critical response = = =

In mid @-@ July 2006 , New Line Cinema revealed that it would not be showing any advance screenings for critics . After the film opened , the review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes gave the film a score of 68 % based reviews from 171 critics , with the consensus : " Snakes on a Plane lives up to its title , featuring snakes on a plane . It isn 't perfect , but then again , it doesn 't need to be . " reviews , with an average score of 6 @. @ 2 / 10 . At the website Metacritic , which uses a normalized rating system , the film earned a mixed rating of 58 % based on 31 reviews by mainstream critics . Reviewers reported audiences cheering , applauding , and engaging in " call and response " , noting that audience participation was an important part of the film 's appeal .

The Arizona Republic 's Randy Cordova gave the film a positive review , calling the film " ... an exploitation flick that knows what it wants to do , and it gets the job done expertly . " and a " ... Mecca for B @-@ movie lovers . " Mick LaSalle of the San Francisco Chronicle enjoyed the film , asking his readers " ... if you can find a better time at the movies this year than this wild comic thriller , let me in on it . " Boston Globe reviewer Ty Burr reacted to Samuel L. Jackson 's performance by saying he " ... bestrides this film with the authority of someone who knows the value of honest bilge . He 's as much the auteur of this baby as the director and screenwriters , and that fierce glimmer in his eye is partly joy . "

Peter Travers of Rolling Stone gave the film one and a half stars out of four , saying that " after all the Internet hype about those motherfuckin ' snakes on that motherfuckin ' plane , the flick itself is a murky stew of shock effects repeated so often that the suspense quickly droops along with your eyelids . " David Denby of The New Yorker claimed that the film " ... may mark a new participatory style in marketing , but it still gulls an allegedly knowing audience with the pseudo @-@ morality of yesteryear . "

Film critic and radio host Michael Medved criticized New Line Cinema for agreeing to re @-@ shoot scenes so that the film would receive an R rating from the Motion Picture Association of America to match fan expectations . He argued that the film would have grossed more revenue at the box office with a PG @-@ 13 rating , stating that the demographic most likely to be drawn to a movie titled Snakes on a Plane is males between the ages of 12 and 15 . " My fourteen @-@ year @-@ old son , Danny , for instance , felt a powerful inclination to go out and see the movie with his two sleep @-@ over friends this Sunday night , " he explained , " but I wouldn 't permit it . It 's rated R for good reason . " Medved ultimately awarded the film 2 1 / 2 stars out of 4 in a radio review , but said that he did so " grudgingly . "

= = = Box office = = =

Due to the Internet hype surrounding the film , industry analysts estimated the film 's opening box office to be between US \$ 20 @-@ 30 million . While Snakes on a Plane did narrowly beat Talladega Nights : The Ballad of Ricky Bobby for the number one position during its opening weekend , it did not meet these estimates and grossed only \$ 15 @. @ 25 million in its opening days , a disappointment for New Line Cinema . In its second weekend , the film fell to sixth place with \$ 6 @. @ 4 million , a more than fifty percent drop from its opening weekend revenue . By the end of its theatrical run , the film grossed \$ 62 @, @ 022 @, @ 014 worldwide .

Robert K. Shaye , the founder of New Line , stated that he was " disappointed " that Snakes on a Plane was a " dud " despite " higher expectations " . The press declared that Snakes on a Plane was a " box office disappointment " , with The New York Times reporting that after all the " hype

online , Snakes on a Plane is letdown at box office " and Entertainment Weekly reporting that the film was an " internet @-@ only phenomenon . "

= = = Home media = = =

Snakes on a Plane released on DVD December 26 , 2006 in Region 2 ; December 28 , 2006 in Region 4 ; and January 2 , 2007 in Region 1 . The DVD features commentaries , deleted and extended scenes , several featurettes , Cobra Starship 's music video , and trailers . The U.S. Blu @-@ ray was released on September 29 , 2009 .

= = = TV version = = =

The film received further attention when fans noticed the U.S. TV edit of the film purposely dubbed over foul language , replacing it with nonsense words , for family audiences . An example is Samuel L. Jackson 's line toward the end of the film , " I have had it with these motherfucking snakes on this motherfucking plane " , which is replaced with " I have had it with these monkey @-@ fighting snakes on this Monday @-@ to @-@ Friday plane " .

= = = Adaptations = = =

Black Flame published the novelization of the film , written by Christa Faust . The 405 ? page novel contains significant backstories for the characters and introduces other characters that were not featured in the film . Comic book writer Chuck Dixon wrote a comic book adaptation of the film . DC Comics released the two @-@ issue miniseries on August 16 , 2006 and September 27 , 2006 under their Wildstorm imprint .

= = Soundtrack = =

The soundtrack for the film was released on August 15 , 2006 . The enhanced portion of the CD contains what was considered the " best of the best " of the amateur Internet creations inspired by the film , including the songs " Snakes on the Brain " by Captain Ahab and " Here Come the Snakes (Seeing Is Believing) " by Loudon Swain . The single " Snakes on a Plane (Bring It) " peaked at the 32nd position of Billboard 's Hot Modern Rock Tracks in 2006 .

" Snakes on a Plane (Bring It) " by Cobra Starship , William Beckett , Maja Ivarsson , Tracie McCoy

" The Only Difference Between Martyrdom and Suicide Is Press Coverage " (Tommie Sunshine Brooklyn Fire Remix) by Panic ! at the Disco

" Black Mamba " (Teddybears Remix) by The Academy Is ...

" Ophidiophobia " by Cee @-@ Lo Green

" Can 't Take It " (The Baldwin Brothers " El Camino Prom Wagon " Remix) by The All @-@ American Rejects

" Queen of Apology " (Patrick Stump Remix) by The Sounds

" Of All the Gin Joints in All the World " (Tommie Sunshine 's Brooklyn Fire Retouch) by Fall Out Boy

" New Friend Request " (Hi @-@ Tek Remix) by Gym Class Heroes

" Around the Horn " (Louis XIV Remix) by The Bronx

" Remember to Feel Real " (Machine Shop Remix) by Armor for Sleep

" Wine Red " (Tommie Sunshine 's Brooklyn Fire Retouch) by The Hush Sound

" Bruised " (Remix) by Jack 's Mannequin

" Final Snakes " by Shranky Drank

" Wake Up " (Acoustic) by Coheed and Cambria

" Lovely Day " by Donavon Frankenreiter

" Hey Now Now " by Michael Franti & Spearhead

" Snakes on a Plane - The Theme " (Score) by Trevor Rabin