

= The Blues Brothers (film) =

The Blues Brothers is a 1980 American musical crime comedy film directed by John Landis . It stars John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd as " Joliet " Jake and Elwood Blues , characters developed from " The Blues Brothers " musical sketch on the NBC variety series Saturday Night Live . The film 's screenplay was written by Aykroyd and Landis . It features musical numbers by rhythm and blues (R & B) , soul , and blues singers James Brown , Cab Calloway , Aretha Franklin , Ray Charles , and John Lee Hooker . The film is set in and around Chicago , Illinois , where it was filmed . It features non @-@ musical supporting performances by John Candy , Carrie Fisher , Charles Napier , and Henry Gibson .

The story is a tale of redemption for paroled convict Jake and his brother Elwood , who set out on " a mission from God " to save from foreclosure the Catholic orphanage in which they were raised . To do so , they must reunite their R & B band and organize a performance to earn \$ 5 @,@ 000 needed to pay the orphanage 's property tax bill . Along the way , they are targeted by a destructive " mystery woman " , Neo @-@ Nazis , and a country and western band ? all while being relentlessly pursued by the police .

Universal Studios , which had won the bidding war for the film , was hoping to take advantage of Belushi 's popularity in the wake of Saturday Night Live , Animal House , and the Blues Brothers ' musical success ; it soon found itself unable to control production costs . The start of filming was delayed when Aykroyd , new to film screenwriting , took six months to deliver a long and unconventional script that Landis had to rewrite before production , which began without a final budget . On location in Chicago , Belushi 's partying and drug use caused lengthy and costly delays that , along with the destructive car chases depicted onscreen , made the final film one of the most expensive comedies ever produced .

Concerns that the film would fail limited its initial bookings to less than half those a film of its magnitude normally received . Released in the United States on June 20 , 1980 , it received generally positive reviews . It earned just under \$ 5 million in its opening weekend and went on to gross over \$ 115 million in theaters worldwide before its release on home video . It has become a cult classic , spawning the sequel , Blues Brothers 2000 , 18 years later , which was a critical and commercial failure .

= = Plot = =

Jake Blues is released from prison after serving three years for armed robbery , and is picked up by his brother Elwood in the new Bluesmobile , a battered former Mount Prospect police car , replacing their old Cadillac . Jake approves it after Elwood demonstrates its capabilities by jumping an open drawbridge . The brothers visit the Roman Catholic orphanage where they were raised , and learn from Sister Mary " The Penguin " Stigmata that it will be closed unless \$ 5 @,@ 000 in property taxes is collected . During a sermon by the Reverend Cleophus James at the Triple Rock Baptist church , Jake has an epiphany : They can re @-@ form the Blues Brothers Band , which broke up while Jake was in prison , and raise the money to pay the tax bill .

That night , Elwood is pulled over for running a red light , and the state troopers attempt to arrest him for driving with a suspended license due to 116 parking tickets and 56 moving violations . After a high @-@ speed chase through the Dixie Square Mall , the brothers escape . The next morning , as the police arrive at the flophouse where Elwood lives , a mysterious woman detonates a bomb that demolishes the building , but miraculously leaves Jake and Elwood unharmed , and saves them from being arrested .

Jake and Elwood begin tracking down members of the band . Trombonist Tom " Bones " Malone , drummer Willie " Too Big " Hall , rhythm guitarist Steve " The Colonel " Cropper , bassist Donald " Duck " Dunn , and keyboardist Murphy " Murph " Dunne are now performing as a lounge band , " Murph and the Magictones " , at a deserted Holiday Inn , and quickly agree to rejoin . Trumpeter Alan " Mr. Fabulous " Rubin , now the maître d ' at an expensive restaurant , turns them down , but the brothers refuse to leave the restaurant until he relents . On their way to meet the final two band

members , saxophonist Louis " Blue Lou " Marini and guitarist Matt " Guitar " Murphy , the brothers find the road blocked by a Nazi Party demonstration on a bridge ; Elwood runs them off the bridge into Lake Michigan . Marini and Murphy , who now run a soul food restaurant , ignore the advice of Murphy 's wife (Aretha Franklin) and rejoin the band . The reunited group obtain instruments and equipment from Ray 's Music Exchange , and Ray (Ray Charles) , as usual , takes an IOU .

As Jake attempts to book a gig , the mystery woman blows up the phone booth he is using ; once again , he is miraculously unhurt . The band stumbles into a gig at Bob 's Country Bunker , a local honky @-@ tonk . They win over the rowdy crowd , but run up a bar tab higher than their pay , and infuriate the country band that was actually booked for the gig , the Good Ol ' Boys .

Realizing that they need one big show to raise the necessary \$ 5 @,@ 000 , the brothers persuade their old agent to book the Palace Hotel Ballroom , north of Chicago . They mount a loudspeaker atop the Bluesmobile and drive all over greater Chicago promoting the concert ? and alerting the police , the Nazis , and the Good Ol ' Boys of their whereabouts . The ballroom is packed with blues fans , police officers , and the Good Ol ' Boys . Jake and Elwood perform two songs , then sneak offstage , as the tax deadline is rapidly approaching . A record company executive offers them a \$ 10 @,@ 000 cash advance on a recording contract ? more than enough to pay off the orphanage 's taxes and Ray 's IOU ? and then shows the brothers how to slip out of the building unnoticed . As they make their escape via a service tunnel , they are confronted by the mystery woman : Jake 's jilted ex @-@ fiancée (Carrie Fisher) . After her volley of M16 rifle bullets leaves them miraculously unharmed , Jake offers a series of ridiculous excuses that she miraculously believes , allowing the brothers to escape to the Bluesmobile .

Jake and Elwood race back toward Chicago , pursued at high speeds by dozens of police cars and the Good Ol ' Boys . They elude them all with a series of improbable maneuvers , including a miraculous , gravity @-@ defying escape from the Illinois Nazis . At the Richard J. Daley Center , they rush inside the adjacent Chicago City Hall building with hundreds of law officers of every conceivable type in hot pursuit . At the office of the Cook County Assessor , the brothers pay the tax bill . As their receipt is stamped " paid " , they are arrested by the mob of law officers . In prison , the band plays " Jailhouse Rock " for the inmates .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

= = = Origins = = =

The characters , Jake and Elwood Blues , were created by Belushi and Aykroyd in performances on Saturday Night Live . The name " The Blues Brothers " was the idea of Howard Shore . The fictional back story and character sketches of blood brothers Jake and Elwood were developed by Aykroyd in collaboration with Ron Gwynne , who is credited as a story consultant for the film . As related in the liner notes of the band 's debut album , Briefcase Full of Blues , the brothers grew up in an orphanage , learned the blues from a janitor named Curtis , and sealed their brotherhood by cutting their middle fingers with a steel string said to have come from the guitar of Elmore James .

Belushi had become a star in 1978 as a result of both the Blues Brothers ' musical success and his role in National Lampoon 's Animal House . At one point , he managed the triple feat of being the star of the week 's top @-@ grossing film , top @-@ rated television show , and singing on the number @-@ one album within a year . When Aykroyd and Belushi decided they could make a Blues Brothers film , the bidding war was intense . Universal Studios narrowly beat Paramount Pictures for the project . John Landis , who had directed Belushi in Animal House , was aboard as director .

However , the project had neither a budget nor a script . On the former issue , Universal head Lew Wasserman thought the film could be made for \$ 12 million ; the filmmakers wanted \$ 20 million . It

would be impossible to settle on a specific amount without a screenplay to review , and after Mitch Glazer declined to help him , Aykroyd wrote one on his own .

Aykroyd had never written a screenplay before , he admitted in the 1998 documentary , *Stories Behind the Making of The Blues Brothers* , or even read one , and he was unable to find a writing partner . Consequently , he put together a very descriptive volume that explained the characters ' origins and how the band members were recruited . His final draft was 324 pages , which was three times longer than a standard screenplay , written not in a standard screenplay format , but more like free verse . To soften the impact , Aykroyd made a joke of the thick script and had it bound with the cover of the Los Angeles Yellow Pages directory for when he turned it in to producer Robert K. Weiss . Landis was given the task of editing the script into a usable screenplay , which took him about two weeks .

The premise of the underlying plot was somewhat unrealistic . It would be unlikely that a church @-@ owned orphanage would have to pay a property tax bill since , in Illinois - as in much of the rest of the world - property owned by religious groups and other not @-@ for @-@ profit organizations is tax @-@ exempt . However , while the script was being written , a legislative proposal to tax such property was under consideration .

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography began in July 1979 , with the film 's budget still not settled . For the first month , things ran smoothly on and off the set . When Weiss saw the supposedly final \$ 17 @.@ 5 million budget , he reportedly joked , " I think we 've spent that much already . "

In the next month , the production began falling behind schedule . Much of the delay was due to Belushi 's partying and carousing . When not on the set , he went out to his familiar Chicago haunts such as Wrigley Field . People often recognized him and slipped him cocaine , a drug he was already using heavily on his own , hoping to use it with him . " Every blue @-@ collar Joe wants his John Belushi story , " said Smokey Wendell , who was eventually hired to keep it away from the star . As a result of his late nights and drug and alcohol use , Belushi would often miss unit calls (the beginning of a production day) or go to his trailer after them and sleep , wasting hours of production time . One night , Aykroyd found him crashing on the sofa of a nearby house , where Belushi had already helped himself to food in the refrigerator .

Cocaine was already so prevalent on the set (like many other film productions of that era) that Aykroyd , who used far less than his partner , claims a section of the budget was actually set aside for purchases of the drug during night shooting . The stars had a private bar , the Blues Club , built on the set , for themselves , crew , and friends . Carrie Fisher , Aykroyd 's girlfriend at the time , says most of the bar 's staff doubled as dealers , procuring any drug patrons desired .

The original budget was quickly surpassed , and back in Los Angeles , Wasserman grew increasingly frustrated . He was regularly confronting Ned Tanen , the executive in charge of production for Universal , in person over the costs . Sean Daniel , another studio executive , was not reassured when he came to Chicago and saw the production had set up a special facility for the 70 cars used in the chase sequences . Filming there , which was supposed to have concluded in the middle of September , continued into late October .

On the set , Belushi 's drug use worsened . Fisher , who herself later struggled with cocaine addiction , says Landis told her to keep Belushi away from the drug . Wendell was hired to clear any from the places Belushi visited off @-@ camera . Nevertheless , at one point , Landis found Belushi with what he described as a " mountain " of cocaine on a table in his trailer , which led to a tearful confrontation in which Belushi admitted his addiction and feared it could eventually kill him .

After Aykroyd and Belushi 's wife Judy had a talk with him about his antics , the production returned to Los Angeles . Filming there again ran smoothly , until it came time to shoot the final sequence at the Hollywood Palladium . Just beforehand , Belushi fell off a borrowed skateboard and seriously injured his knee , making it unlikely he could go through with the scene , which required him to sing , dance , and do cartwheels . Wasserman persuaded the city 's top orthopedic surgeon to postpone his weekend plans long enough to stop by and sufficiently anesthetize Belushi 's knee , and the

scene was filmed as intended .

== = Locations = = = =

Much of the film was shot on location in and around Chicago between July and October 1979 , including Wauconda , Illinois , where the car crashes into the side of Route 12 . Made with the cooperation of Mayor Jane M. Byrne , it is credited for putting Chicago on the map as a venue for filmmaking . Nearly 200 movies have been filmed in Chicago . " Chicago is one of the stars of the movie . We wrote it as a tribute , " Dan Aykroyd told the Chicago Sun @-@ Times in an article written to mark the film 's 25th @-@ anniversary DVD release .

The first traffic stop was in Park Ridge , Illinois . The shopping mall car chase was filmed in the real , albeit abandoned , Dixie Square Mall , in Harvey , Illinois . The bridge jump was filmed on an actual drawbridge , the 95th Street bridge over the Calumet River , on the southeast side of Chicago . The main entrance to Wrigley Field (and its sign reading " Save lives . Drive safely , prevent fires . ") makes a brief appearance when the " Illinois Nazis " visit it after Elwood falsely registers the ballpark 's location , 1060 West Addison , as his home address on his driver 's license . (Elwood 's Illinois driver 's license number is an almost @-@ valid encoded number , with Dan Aykroyd 's own birth date embedded .) Jake 's final confrontation with his girlfriend was filmed in a replica of a section of the abandoned Chicago freight tunnel system . The other chase scenes included lower Wacker Drive , Lake Street , and Richard J. Daley Center .

Jake and Elwood push their fuel @-@ less Blues Mobile off the highway and into a service station named Lloyd 's Tire Clinic . This was located right off IL 38 (Roosevelt Road) and IL 59 , four miles west of Belushi 's former high school , Wheaton Central . The station was detonated late one night while filming , but this scene was deleted . While Lloyd 's is long gone , the adjacent West @-@ Wind Motel (slightly to the east) at Gary 's Mill Road , where Twiggy 's character waited for a no @-@ show Elwood , survives to this date .

In the final car chase scene , the production actually dropped a Ford Pinto , representing the one driven by the " Illinois Nazis " , from a helicopter at an altitude of about 1 @,@ 200 feet ? and had to gain a Special Airworthiness Certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration to do it . The FAA was concerned that the car could prove too aerodynamic in a high @-@ altitude drop , and pose a threat to nearby buildings . The shot leading up to the car drop , where the " Illinois Nazis " drive off a freeway ramp , was shot in Milwaukee , Wisconsin , near the Hoan Bridge on Interstate 794 . The Lake Freeway (North) was a planned but not completed six @-@ lane freeway , and I @-@ 794 contained an unfinished ramp off which the Nazis drove . Several Milwaukee skyscrapers are visible in the background as the Bluesmobile flips over , notably the U.S. Bank Center .

The " Palace Hotel Ballroom " , where the band performs its climactic concert , was at the time of filming a country club , but later became the South Shore Cultural Center , named after the Chicago neighborhood where it is located . The interior concert scenes were filmed in the Hollywood Palladium .

The filming in downtown Chicago was conducted on Sundays during the summer of 1979 , and much of the downtown was cordoned off from the public . Costs for filming the largest scene in the city 's history totaled \$ 3 @.@ 5 million . Permission was given after Belushi and Aykroyd offered to donate \$ 50 @,@ 000 to charity after filming . Although the Bluesmobile was allowed to be driven through the Daley Center lobby , special breakaway panes were temporarily substituted for the normal glass in the building . The speeding car caused \$ 7 @,@ 650 in damages to 35 granite paver stones and a bronze air grill in the building . Interior shots of the elevator , staircase , and assessor 's office were all recreated in a film set for filming .

As revealed in the DVD commentary , both Brown and Lee Hooker sang their songs live on set because they couldn 't accurately lip @-@ sync to pre @-@ recorded audio tracks . Charles and Franklin sang to playback , despite the latter 's similar difficulties with lip @-@ sync .

== = Bluesmobile = = =

The film used thirteen different cars bought at auction from the California Highway Patrol to depict the Bluesmobile , a retired 1974 Mount Prospect , Illinois Dodge Monaco patrol car . The vehicles were outfitted by the studio to do particular driving chores ; some were customized for speed and others for jumps , depending on the scene . For the large car chases , filmmakers purchased 60 police cars at \$ 400 each , and most were destroyed at the completion of the filming . More than 40 stunt drivers were hired , and the crew kept a 24 @-@ hour body shop to repair cars .

For the scene when the Blues Brothers finally arrive at the Richard J. Daley Center , a mechanic took several months to rig the car to fall apart . At the time of the film 's release , it held the world record for the most cars destroyed in one film until it was surpassed by its own sequel .

= = = Casting = = =

Soul and R & B stars James Brown , Cab Calloway , Ray Charles , and Aretha Franklin were cast in speaking parts to support musical numbers built around them . This caused friction between Landis and Universal later in the production , as its costs far exceeded the original budget . Since none of them except Charles had had any hits in recent years , the studio wanted the director to replace them with , or add , performances by younger acts such as Rose Royce , whose " Car Wash " had made them disco stars after its use in the 1976 film of that name .

Other notable musicians in the cast include Big Walter Horton , Pinetop Perkins , and John Lee Hooker (who performed " Boom Boom " during the Maxwell Street scene) . The members of The Blues Brothers band are notable for their musical accomplishments , as well . Steve Cropper and Donald Dunn are architects of the Stax Records sound (Cropper 's guitar can be heard at the start of the Sam & Dave song " Soul Man ") and were half of Booker T. & the M.G. ' s . Horn players Lou Marini , Tom Malone , and Alan Rubin had all played in Blood , Sweat & Tears and the Saturday Night Live band . Drummer Willie Hall had played in The Bar @-@ Kays and backed Isaac Hayes . Matt Murphy is a veteran blues guitarist . As the band developed at Saturday Night Live , pianist Paul Shaffer was part of the act and was cast in the film . However , due to contractual obligations with SNL , he was unable to participate , so actor @-@ musician Murphy Dunne (whose father , George Dunne , was the Cook County Board President) was hired to take his role .

Fisher , Freeman , Gibson , and Candy were cast in non @-@ musical supporting roles . The film is also notable for the number of cameo appearances by established celebrities and entertainment @-@ industry figures , including Steve Lawrence as a booking agent , Twiggy as a " chic lady " in a Jaguar convertible whom Elwood propositions at a gas station , Steven Spielberg as the Cook County Assessor 's clerk , John Landis as a state trooper in the mall chase , Paul Reubens (before Pee @-@ wee Herman) as a waiter in the Chez Paul restaurant scene , Joe Walsh in a cameo as the first prisoner to jump up on a table in the final scene , and Chaka Khan is the soloist in James Brown 's choir . Muppet performer Frank Oz plays a corrections officer , and in the scene where the brothers crash into Toys R Us , a Grover and Kermit the Frog toy can be spotted . Right before the brothers crash into the Toys R Us , a customer (played by stunt coordinator Gary McLarty) asks the cashier if they have a Miss Piggy doll , a Muppet character that is voiced by Oz . The character portrayed by Cab Calloway is named Curtis as an homage to Curtis Salgado , a Portland , Oregon , blues musician who inspired Belushi while he was in Oregon filming Animal House .

Over 500 extras were used for the next @-@ to @-@ last scene , the blockade of the building at Daley Center , including 200 National Guardsmen , 100 state and city police officers , with 15 horses for the mounted police (and 3 each Sherman tanks , helicopters , and fire engines) .

= = = Post @-@ production = = =

Landis ' difficulties continued even after principal photography was completed . The first cut of the film lasted two and a half hours , with an intermission . After one early screening , Wasserman demanded it be shortened , and 20 minutes were cut . The film 's final budget was \$ 27 @.@ 5 million (\$ 79 million in modern dollars) , \$ 10 million over its original budget .

Prospects for a successful release did not look good . Aykroyd and Belushi had left SNL at the end

of the previous season , reducing their bankability . Belushi 's fame had taken a further hit after the commercial and critical failure of 1941 at the end of the year . One day after the editing was done , Wasserman invited Landis up to his office to speak with Ted Mann , head of the Mann Theatres chain , which dominated film exhibition in the Western United States . He told Landis that he would not book the film at any theaters in predominately white neighborhoods , such as Westwood . Not only did Mann not want black patrons going there to see the film , he surmised that white viewers were unlikely to see a film featuring older black musical stars . Ultimately The Blues Brothers got less than half the bookings nationwide for its initial release than a typical big @-@ budget studio film of the era , which did not bode well for its success at the box office .

= = Reception = =

= = = Box office = = =

The Blues Brothers opened on June 20 , 1980 , with a release in 594 theaters . It took in \$ 4 @,@ 858 @,@ 152 , ranking second for that week (after The Empire Strikes Back) and 10th for the entire year . Over the years , it has retained a following through television and home video . The film in total grossed \$ 57 @,@ 229 @,@ 890 domestically and \$ 58 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 in foreign box offices for a total of \$ 115 @,@ 229 @,@ 890 . By genre , it is the ninth @-@ highest grossing musical and the tenth @-@ highest earner among comedy road movies . It ranks second , between Wayne 's World and Wayne 's World 2 (which , coincidentally , also take place in the greater Chicago metropolitan area , in the outlying suburb of Aurora , Illinois) , among films adapted from Saturday Night Live sketches . Director John Landis claimed The Blues Brothers was also the first American film to gross more money overseas than it did in the United States .

The popularity of the film boosted the Ray @-@ Ban Wayfarer , which was yet experiencing some renewed popularity thanks to the rise of the " New Music " movement . From a few thousands sold through the mid @-@ 1970s , sales rose to 18 @,@ 000 during 1981 partly because of the film , bringing the model out from the verge of withdrawal .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The Blues Brothers received generally positive reviews from critics . On Rotten Tomatoes , the film has an 85 % " Certified Fresh " rating , based on 53 reviews , with an average rating of 7 @.@ 1 / 10 . The site 's critical consensus reads , " Too over the top for its own good , but ultimately rescued by the cast 's charm , director John Landis ' grace , and several soul @-@ stirring musical numbers " . It won the Golden Reel Award for Best Sound Editing and Sound Effects , is 14th on Total Film magazine 's " List of the 50 Greatest Comedy Films of All Time " and is number 69 on Bravo 's " 100 Funniest Movies " .

Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times gave the film 3 out of 4 stars , praising it for its energetic musical numbers and said the car chases were " incredible " if so over @-@ the @-@ top that they finally became numbing . Ebert further noted " Belushi and Aykroyd come over as hard @-@ boiled city guys , total cynics with a world @-@ view of sublime simplicity , and that all fits perfectly with the movie 's other parts . There 's even room , in the midst of the carnage and mayhem , for a surprising amount of grace , humor , and whimsy . In his review for The Washington Post , Gary Arnold criticized Landis for engorging " the frail plot of The Blues Brothers with car chases and crack @-@ ups , filmed with such avid , humorless starkness on the streets of Chicago that comic sensations are virtually obliterated " . Time magazine 's Richard Corliss wrote , " The Blues Brothers is a demolition symphony that works with the cold efficiency of a Moog synthesizer gone sadistic " .

Janet Maslin of The New York Times criticized the film for shortchanging viewers on more details about Jake and Elwood 's affinity for African @-@ American culture . She also took director Landis to task for " distracting editing " , mentioning the Soul Food diner scene in which saxophonist Lou

Marini 's head is out of shot as he dances on the counter . In the documentary , Stories Behind the Making of The Blues Brothers , Landis acknowledges the criticism , and Marini recalls the dismay he felt at seeing the completed film .

Kim Newman , writing for Empire in 2013 , considered The Blues Brothers to be " an amalgam of urban sleaze , automobile crunch and blackheart rhythm and blues " with " better music than any film had had for many years . " He noted that Belushi and Aykroyd pack in their heroes : " Aretha storming through ' Think ' , Cab Calloway cruising through ' Minnie the Moocher ' , John Lee Hooker boogying through ' Boom Boom ' and Ray Charles on electric piano , not to mention the hottest band . " He observed that " the picture had revived the careers of virtually all the musicians that appeared in it " and concluded " it still sounds great and looks as good as ever through Ray Bans " .

On the 30th anniversary , L 'Osservatore Romano , the daily newspaper of Vatican City State , wrote that the film is filled with positive symbolism and moral references that can be related to Catholicism . They went further , stating , The Blues Brothers " is a memorable film , and , judging by the facts , a Catholic one . "

= = = Cult @-@ film status = = =

The Blues Brothers has become a staple of late @-@ night cinema , even slowly morphing into an audience @-@ participation show in its regular screenings at the Valhalla Cinema , in Melbourne , Australia . John Landis acknowledged the support of the cinema and the fans by a phone call he made to the cinema at the 10th @-@ anniversary screening , and later invited regular attendees to make cameo appearances in Blues Brothers 2000 . The fans act as the members of the crowd during the performance of " Ghost Riders in the Sky " .

In August 2005 , a 25th @-@ anniversary celebration for The Blues Brothers was held at Grauman 's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles . Attendees included Landis , former Universal Studios executive Thom Mount , film editor George Folsey , Jr . , and cast members James Brown , Henry Gibson , Charles Napier , Steve Cropper , and Stephen Bishop . It featured a press conference , a panel discussion where Dan Aykroyd joined by satellite , and a screening of the original theatrical version of the film . The panel discussion was broadcast direct to many other cinemas around the country .

The popularity of the film has also spread overseas . The film was an inspiration for Japanese companies Studio Hibari and Aniplex , which led to the creation of the manga and anime franchise Nerima Daikon Brothers , which contain heavy references to the film .

= = = American Film Institute = = =

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Laughs - Nominated

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Songs :

Think - Nominated

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Movie Quotes :

" We 're on a mission from God . " - Nominated

= = Release = =

= = = Home media = = =

When the film was first screened for a preview audience , a producer demanded that director Landis cut 25 minutes from the film . After trimming 15 minutes , it was released in theaters at 132 minutes . It was first released on VHS and Betamax from MCA Videocassette Inc. in 1983 . A Laserdisc from MCA Videodisc was released the same year . It was re @-@ released on VHS , Laserdisc , and Betamax in 1985 from MCA Home Video , and again in 1990 from MCA / Universal Home Video . It was also released in a 2 @-@ Pack VHS box set with along with Animal House . The film 's original length was restored to 148 minutes for the " Collector 's Edition " DVD and a

Special Edition VHS and Laserdisc release in 1998 . The DVD and Laserdisc versions included a 56 minute documentary called " The Stories Behind The Making Of The Blues Brothers " . Produced and directed by JM Kenny (who also produced the Animal House Collector 's Edition DVD the same year) , it included interviews with Landis , Aykroyd , members of The Blues Brothers Band , producer Robert K. Weiss , editor George Folsey Jr . , and others involved with the film . It also included production photographs , the theatrical trailer , production notes , and cast and filmmaker bios . The 25th @-@ anniversary DVD release in 2005 included both the theatrical cut and the extended version .

The film was released on Blu @-@ ray on July 26 , 2011 , with the same basic contents as the 25th @-@ anniversary DVD . In a March 2011 interview with Ain 't it Cool News , Landis also mentioned he had approved the Blu @-@ ray 's remastered transfer .

= = = Soundtrack = = =

The Blues Brothers : Original Soundtrack Recording (later re @-@ released as The Blues Brothers : Music from the Soundtrack) was released on June 20 , 1980 as the second album by the Blues Brothers Band , which also toured that year to promote the film . " Gimme Some Lovin ' " was a Top 20 Billboard hit , peaking at number 18 . The album was a followup to their debut , the live album , Briefcase Full of Blues . Later that year they released a second live album , Made in America , which featured the Top 40 track , " Who 's Making Love " .

The songs on the soundtrack album are a noticeably different audio mix than in the film , with a prominent baritone saxophone in the horn line (also heard in the film during " Shake a Tail Feather " , though no baritone sax is present) , and female backing vocals on " Everybody Needs Somebody to Love " , though the band had no other backup singers , besides Jake & / or Elwood , in the film . A number of regular Blues Brothers ' members , including saxophonist Tom Scott and drummer Steve Jordan , perform on the soundtrack album , but are not in the film .

According to Landis in the 1998 documentary The Stories Behind the Making of ' The Blues Brothers ' , filmed musical performances by Franklin and Brown took more effort , as neither artist was accustomed to lip @-@ synching their performances on film . Franklin required several takes , and Brown simply rerecorded his performance live . Cab Calloway initially wanted to do a disco variation on his signature tune , " Minnie the Moocher " , having done the song in several styles in the past , but Landis insisted that the song be done faithful to the original big @-@ band version .

" She Caught the Katy " (Taj Mahal , Yank Rachell) ? The Blues Brothers with lead vocals by Jake Blues - 4 : 10

" Peter Gunn Theme " (Henry Mancini) ? The Blues Brothers Band - 3 : 46

" Gimme Some Lovin ' " (Steve Winwood , Muff Winwood , Spencer Davis) ? The Blues Brothers with lead vocals by Jake Blues - 3 : 06

" Shake a Tail Feather " (Otha Hayes , Andre Williams , Verlie Rice) ? Ray Charles with the Blues Brothers (Jake and Elwood , backing vocals) - 2 : 48

" Everybody Needs Somebody to Love " (Jerry Wexler , Bert Berns , Solomon Burke) ? The Blues Brothers (Jake Blues , lead vocals ; Elwood Blues , harmonica and vocals) - 3 : 21

" The Old Landmark " (Adeline M. Brunner) ? James Brown and the Rev. James Cleveland Choir (additional choir vocals by Chaka Khan credited in the film) - 2 : 56

" Think " (Teddy White , Aretha Franklin) ? Aretha Franklin and the Blues Brothers with backing vocals by Brenda Corbett , Margaret Branch , Carolyn Franklin , Jake , and Elwood - 3 : 13

" Theme from Rawhide " (Dimitri Tiomkin , Ned Washington) ? Elwood , Jake , and the Blues Brothers Band - 2 : 37

" Minnie the Moocher " (Cab Calloway , Irving Mills) ? Cab Calloway with the Blues Brothers Band - 3 : 23

" Sweet Home Chicago " (Robert Johnson) ? The Blues Brothers with lead vocals by Jake Blues (dedicated to the musician Magic Sam) - 7 : 48

" Jailhouse Rock " (Jerry Leiber , Mike Stoller) ? Jake Blues and the Blues Brothers (Over the closing credits in the film , verses are sung by James Brown , Cab Calloway , Ray Charles , Aretha

Franklin and " crew ") - 3 : 19

Other songs in the film

The film 's score includes " God Music " (instrumental with choir vocalese) composed by Elmer Bernstein , who previously had worked with John Landis on National Lampoon 's Animal House .

Other songs in the film include :

" Somebody Loan Me a Dime " - composed and performed by Fenton Robinson (music playing on the radio while Jake is being escorted from his prison cell .)

" Shake Your Moneymaker " ? composed and performed by Elmore James (music playing in Curtis ' basement when Jake and Elwood go to visit the orphanage)

" Soothe Me " / " Hold On ! I 'm Comin ' " ? composed by Sam Cooke / Isaac Hayes and David Porter ; performed by Sam & Dave (both tracks playing on the Bluesmobile 's 8 @-@ track player . The former when Jake and Elwood get pulled over by the police ; latter when they are then chased after resisting arrest)

" I Can 't Turn You Loose " ? composed by Otis Redding ; instrumental performed by the Blues Brothers band (their theme song ; plays during the smashing of the Mall and again when they are introduced at the Palace Hotel Ballroom , incorporating " Time Is Tight " by Booker T. and The M.G. ' s)

" Let the Good Times Roll " ? composed and performed by Louis Jordan (plays on the record player in Elwood 's corner of the flophouse)

" Anema e core " ? performed by Ezio Pinza (plays when Jake and Elwood investigate Tom Malone and Lou Marini 's old home)

" Quando , quando , quando " ? performed by Murph and the Magic Tones

" Just the Way You Are " ? composed by Billy Joel ; (plays during the ' Magic Tones ' scene , as a reel @-@ to @-@ reel tape instrumental when the band takes their set break to discuss rejoining Jake & Elwood)

" Die Romantiker " - composed by Joseph Lanner (1801 ? 1843) , performed by an uncredited group (background music in the Chez Paul restaurant scene)

" Boom Boom " ? composed by John Lee Hooker ; performed by John Lee Hooker (as " Street Slim ") , vocals and guitar ; Big Walter Horton (as " Tampa Pete ") , harmonica ; Pinetop Perkins (as " Luther Jackson ") electric piano ; Willie " Big Eyes " Smith , drums ; Luther Johnson (Guitar Junior) , guitar ; Calvin " Fuzz " Jones , bass (plays in the Maxwell Street scene , short version in the theatrical cut , full @-@ length in the extended cut)

" Mama Lawdy " / " Boogie Chillen ' " ? composed and performed by John Lee Hooker (plays in the film twice ; first when Jake tries to phone Maury Sline , again when the band go to Bob 's Country Bunker)

" Your Cheatin ' Heart " ? composed by Hank Williams ; performed by Kitty Wells (heard when Jake and Elwood first enter Bob 's Country Bunker)

" Stand by Your Man " ? composed by Tammy Wynette and Billy Sherrill ; performed by the Blues Brothers

Sink The Bismarck - cut from the film

" I 'm Walkin ' " ? performed by Fats Domino (plays during the scenes where Jake , Elwood and the orphans promote the concert)

" Ride of the Valkyries " ? composed by Richard Wagner ; performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (plays when Jake and Elwood are pursued by the Nazis ; ends abruptly when the Head Nazi 's car falls through the middle of the road)

" The Girl from Ipanema " ? composed by Antônio Carlos Jobim ; performed by an uncredited group (background music while the brothers are in the elevator to the assessor 's office)

= = Sequel = =

The 1998 sequel , Blues Brothers 2000 , had similar traits to the original , including large car @-@ chase scenes and musical numbers . Landis returned to direct the film and Aykroyd reprised his role , joining John Goodman , Joe Morton , and 10 @-@ year @-@ old J. Evan Bonifant as the new

Blues Brothers . Franklin and Brown were among the celebrities returning from the first film . There were also musical performances by Sam Moore , Wilson Pickett , Paul Shaffer , B.B. King , and Eric Clapton , among others . Dozens of artists were packed into an all @-@ star band called The Louisiana Gator Boys . Even with many returning cast members , the film was considered a box @-@ office failure , only generating a little over \$ 14 million in sales , and critics ' reactions were very poor .