

= Beetlejuice =

Beetlejuice is a 1988 American comedy fantasy film directed by Tim Burton , produced by The Geffen Film Company and distributed by Warner Bros. The plot revolves around a recently deceased young couple (Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis) who become ghosts haunting their former home , and an obnoxious , devious ghost named Betelgeuse (pronounced Beetlejuice , portrayed by Michael Keaton) from the Netherworld who tries to scare away the new inhabitants (Catherine O 'Hara , Jeffrey Jones , and Winona Ryder) permanently .

After the success of Pee @-@ wee 's Big Adventure , Burton was sent several scripts and became disheartened by their lack of imagination and originality . When he was sent Michael McDowell 's original script for Beetlejuice , Burton agreed to direct , although Larry Wilson and later Warren Skaaren were hired to rewrite it . Beetlejuice was a critical and commercial success , grossing \$ 73 @. @ 7 million from a budget of \$ 15 million . It won the Academy Award for Best Makeup and three Saturn Awards : Best Horror Film , Best Makeup and Best Supporting Actress for Sylvia Sidney , her final award before her death in 1999 .

The film spawned an animated television series that Burton produced and a planned unproduced sequel , Beetlejuice Goes Hawaiian . In 2012 , new development on a sequel was announced .

= = Plot = =

Barbara and Adam Maitland decide to spend their vacation decorating their idyllic Connecticut country home . As the two are driving home from a trip to town , Barbara swerves to avoid a dog and the car plunges into a river . After they return home , she and Adam notice that they now lack reflections and they discover a Handbook for the Recently Deceased . They then begin to suspect that they did not survive the car accident ; Adam attempts to leave the house but finds himself in a strange , otherworldly landscape covered in sand and populated by enormous sandworms .

The house is old and their new owners , the Deetz family , arrive from New Yawk City . Charles Deetz is a former real estate developer ; his second wife Delia is a self @-@ proclaimed sculptor ; and his goth daughter Lydia , from his first marriage , is an aspiring photographer . Under the guidance of interior designer Otho , the Deetzes transform the house into tasteless pastel @-@ toned modern art . Consulting the Handbook , the Maitlands travel to an otherworldly waiting room populated by other distressed souls , where they discover that the afterlife is structured according to a complex bureaucracy involving vouchers and caseworkers . The Maitlands ' own caseworker , Juno , informs them that they must remain in the house for 125 years . If they want the Deetzes out of the house , it is up to them to scare them away . Barbara 's and Adam 's attempts at scaring the family prove ineffective .

Although Adam and Barbara remain invisible to Charles and Delia , teenage Lydia can see the ghost couple and befriends them . Against Juno 's advice , the Maitlands contact the miscreant Beetlejuice , Juno 's former assistant and now freelance " bio @-@ exorcist " ghost , to scare away the Deetzes . However , Betelgeuse quickly offends the Maitlands with his crude and morbid demeanor ; and they reconsider hiring him , though too late to stop him from wreaking havoc on the Deetzes . The small town 's charm and the supernatural events inspire Charles to pitch his boss Maxie Dean on transforming the town into a tourist hot spot , but Maxie wants proof of the ghosts . Using the Handbook for the Recently Deceased , Otho conducts what he thinks is a séance and summons Adam and Barbara , but they begin to decay and die , as Otho had unwittingly performed an exorcism instead . Horrified , Lydia summons Betelgeuse for help ; but he agrees to help her only on the condition that she marry him , enabling him to freely cause chaos in the mortal world . Betelgeuse saves the Maitlands and disposes of Maxie , his wife , and Otho . Betelgeuse then prepares a wedding before a ghastly minister . The Maitlands intervene before the ceremony is completed , with Barbara riding a sandworm through the house to devour Betelgeuse .

Finally , the Deetzes and Maitlands agree to live in harmony within the house . Betelgeuse , meanwhile , is stuck in the after @-@ life waiting room ; there he antagonizes a witch doctor , who shrinks his head . Being Beetlejuice , however , he remains upbeat : " This could be a good look for

me . "

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

The financial success of Pee @-@ wee 's Big Adventure (1985) meant that Burton was considered a " bankable " director , and he began working on a script for Batman with Sam Hamm . While Warner Bros. was willing to pay for the script 's development , they were less willing to green @-@ light Batman . Meanwhile , Burton had begun reading the scripts that had been sent his way , and was disheartened by their lack of imagination and originality , one of them being Hot to Trot . David Geffen handed Burton the script for Beetlejuice , written by McDowell (who wrote the script for " The Jar " , an episode of Alfred Hitchcock Presents directed by Burton) .

Wilson was brought on board to continue rewriting work with McDowell , though Burton replaced McDowell and Wilson with Skaaren due to creative differences . Burton 's original choice for Betelgeuse was Sammy Davis , Jr . , but Geffen suggested Keaton . Burton was unfamiliar with Keaton 's work , but was quickly convinced . Burton cast Ryder upon seeing her in Lucas . O 'Hara quickly signed on , while Burton claimed it took a lot of time to convince other cast members to sign , as " they didn 't know what to think of the weird script . "

Beetlejuice 's budget was \$ 15 million , with just \$ 1 million given over to visual effects work . Considering the scale and scope of the effects , which included stop motion , replacement animation , prosthetic makeup , puppetry and blue screen , it was always Burton 's intention to make the style similar to the B movies he grew up with as a child . " I wanted to make them look cheap and purposely fake @-@ looking , " Burton remarked . Burton had wanted to hire Anton Furst as production designer after being impressed with his work on The Company of Wolves (1984) and Full Metal Jacket (1987) , though Furst was committed on High Spirits , a choice he later regretted . He hired Bo Welch , his future collaborator on Edward Scissorhands (1990) and Batman Returns (1992) . The test screenings were met with positive feedback and prompted Burton to film an epilogue featuring Betelgeuse foolishly angering a witch doctor . Warner Bros. disliked the title Beetlejuice and wanted to call the film House Ghosts . As a joke , Burton suggested the name Scared Sheetless and was horrified when the studio actually considered using it . Exterior shots were filmed in East Corinth , Vermont .

= = = Story development = = =

McDowell 's original script is far less comedic and much darker ; the Maitlands ' car crash is depicted graphically , with Barbara 's arm being crushed and the couple screaming for help as they slowly drown in the river . A reference to this remained in all versions of the script , as Barbara remarks that her arm feels cold upon returning home as a ghost . Instead of possessing the Deetzes and forcing them to dance during dinner , the Maitlands cause a vine @-@ patterned carpet to come to life and attack the Deetzes by tangling them to their chairs .

The character of Betelgeuse ? envisioned by McDowell as a winged demon who takes on the form of a short Middle Eastern man ? is also intent on killing the Deetzes rather than scaring them , and wants to rape Lydia instead of marry her . In this version of the script , Betelgeuse only needs to be exhumed from his grave to be summoned , after which he is free to wreak havoc ; he cannot be summoned or controlled by saying his name three times , and wanders the world freely , appearing to torment different characters in different manifestations . McDowell 's script also featured a second Deetz child , nine @-@ year @-@ old Cathy , the only person able to see the Maitlands and the subject of Betelgeuse 's homicidal wrath in the film 's climax , during which he mutilates her while in the form of a rabid squirrel before revealing his true form .

The film was to have concluded with the Maitlands , Deetzes , and Otho conducting an exorcism ritual that destroys Betelgeuse , and the Maitlands transforming into miniature versions of

themselves and moving into Adam 's model of their home , which they refurbish to look like their house before the Deetzes moved in .

Co @-@ author and producer Larry Wilson has talked about the negative reaction to McDowell 's original script at Universal where he was employed at the time :

I won 't name names here , but I worked at Universal Studios at the time . I was director of development for the director Walter Hill . I had a very good relationship with a very prominent executive at Universal . He liked me , and he liked what I was doing with Walter , and the material I was bringing in .

I gave him Beetlejuice to read , and I gave it to him on a Friday , and on Monday his assistant called me and said well , he wants to meet with you . My initial reaction was wow ! He 'd read it . He must have loved it or he wouldn 't have wanted to see me so soon . But I went into his office , and he literally said ' what are you doing with your career ? '

'This piece of weirdness , this is what you 're going to go out into the world with ? You 're developing into a very good executive . You 've got great taste in material . Why are you going to squander all that for this piece of shit ' , was basically what he was saying . It goes to show , right ? Shortly after that , we sold it to the Geffen Company [...]

Skaaren 's rewrite drastically shifted the film 's tone , indicating the graphic nature of the Maitlands ' deaths while depicting the afterlife as a complex bureaucracy . Skaaren 's rewrite also altered McDowell 's depiction of the limbo that keeps Barbara and Adam trapped inside of their home ; in McDowell 's script , it takes the form of a massive , empty void filled with giant clock gears that shred the fabric of time and space as they move . Skaaren had Barbara and Adam encounter different limbos every time they leave their home , including the " clock world " , and the Sandworm 's world , identified as Saturn 's moon Titan . Skaaren also introduced the leitmotif of music accompanying Barbara and Adam 's ghostly hijinks , although his script specified R & B tunes instead of Harry Belafonte , and was to have concluded with Lydia dancing to " When a Man Loves a Woman " .

Skaaren 's first draft retained some of the more sinister characteristics of McDowell 's Betelgeuse , but toned down the character to make him a troublesome pervert rather than blatantly murderous . Betelgeuse 's true form was that of the Middle Eastern man , and much of his dialogue was written in African American Vernacular English . This version concluded with the Deetzes returning to New York and leaving Lydia in the care of the Maitlands , who , with Lydia 's help , transform the exterior of their home into a stereotypical haunted house while returning the interior to its previous state .

Retrospectively , McDowell was impressed at how many people made the connection between the film 's title and the star Betelgeuse . He added that the writers and producers had received a suggestion the sequel be named Sanduleak @-@ 69 202 after the former star of SN 1987A .

= = Soundtrack = =

The Beetlejuice soundtrack , first released in 1988 on LP , CD and cassette tape , features most of the score (written and arranged by Danny Elfman) from the film . The soundtrack features two original recordings performed by Harry Belafonte used in the film : " The Banana Boat Song " and " Jump in the Line (Shake , Senora) " . Two other vintage Belafonte recordings that appeared in the film are absent from the soundtrack : " Man Smart , Woman Smarter " and " Sweetheart from Venezuela " . The soundtrack entered the Billboard 200 albums chart the week ending June 25 , 1988 at # 145 , peaking two weeks later at # 118 and spending a total of six weeks on the chart . This was after the film had already fallen out of the top 10 and before the video release later in October . " Day @-@ O " received a fair amount of airplay at the time in support of the soundtrack .

The complete score (with the Belafonte tracks included) was released in both the DVD and the Blu @-@ ray as an isolated music track in the audio settings menu ; this version of the audio track consists entirely of ' clean ' musical cues , uninterrupted by dialogue or sound effects .

= = Reception = =

Beetlejuice opened theatrically in the United States on April 1 , 1988 , earning \$ 8 @,@ 030 @,@

897 in its opening weekend . The film eventually grossed \$ 73 @, @ 707 @, @ 461 in North America . Beetlejuice was a financial success , recouping its \$ 15 million budget , and was the 10th @-@ highest grossing film of 1988 . Based on 42 reviews collected by Rotten Tomatoes , Beetlejuice received an average 81 % overall approval rating . For comparison , Metacritic received an average score of 67 from the 13 reviews collected .

Pauline Kael referred to the film as a " comedy classic " , while Jonathan Rosenbaum of Chicago Reader gave a highly positive review . Rosenbaum felt Beetlejuice carried originality and creativity that did not exist in other films . Vincent Canby of The New York Times called it " a farce for our time " and wished Keaton could have received more screen time . MaryAnn Johanson was impressed with the casting , production design and jokes . Desson Howe of the Washington Post felt Beetlejuice had " the perfect balance of bizarreness , comedy and horror " .

Janet Maslin of The New York Times gave the film a negative review , stating that the film " tries anything and everything for effect , and only occasionally manages something marginally funny ; " and " is about as funny as a shrunken head . " Roger Ebert gave the film two out of four stars , writing that he " would have been more interested if the screenplay had preserved their [Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis] sweet romanticism and cut back on the slapstick . " For Keaton 's character , Ebert called him " unrecognizable behind pounds of makeup " and stated that " his scenes don 't seem to fit with the other action . "

= = Accolades = =

At the 61st Academy Awards , Beetlejuice won the Academy Award for Best Makeup , (Steve La Porte , Ve Neill and Robert Short .) while the British Academy of Film and Television Arts nominated the film with Best Visual Effects and Makeup at the 42nd British Academy Film Awards .

Beetlejuice won Best Horror Film and Best Make @-@ up at the 1988 Saturn Awards . Sidney also won the Saturn for Best Supporting Actress for her performance as Juno , and the film received five other nominations : Direction for Burton , Writing for McDowell and Skaaren , Best Supporting Actor for Keaton , Music for Elfman and Special Effects . Beetlejuice was nominated for the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation . Beetlejuice was 88th in the American Film Institute 's list of Best Comedies .

= = = American Film Institute lists = = =

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Laughs ? # 88

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

" I 'm the ghost with the most , babe . " ? Nominated

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Songs :

" Day @-@ O / The Banana Boat Song " ? Nominated

= = Animated series = =

Due to the film 's financial success , a Beetlejuice animated television series was created for ABC . The show ran for four seasons (the final season airing on Fox) , lasting from September 9 , 1989 to December 6 , 1991 . Burton served as executive producer .

= = Sequel = =

In 1990 , Burton hired Jonathan Gems to write a sequel titled Beetlejuice Goes Hawaiian . " Tim thought it would be funny to match the surfing backdrop of a beach movie with some sort of German Expressionism , because they 're totally wrong together , " Gems said . The story followed the Deetz family moving to Hawaii , where Charles is developing a resort . They soon discover that his company is building on the burial ground of an ancient Hawaiian Kahuna . The spirit comes back from the afterlife to cause trouble , and Betelgeuse becomes a hero by winning a surf contest with

magic . Keaton and Ryder agreed to do the film , on the condition that Burton directed , but both he and Keaton became distracted with Batman Returns .

Burton was still interested in Beetlejuice Goes Hawaiian in early 1991 . Impressed with Daniel Waters ' work on Heathers , Burton approached him for a rewrite . However , he eventually signed Waters to write the script for Batman Returns . By August 1993 , producer David Geffen hired Pamela Norris (Troop Beverly Hills , Saturday Night Live) to rewrite . Warner Bros. approached Kevin Smith in 1996 to rewrite the script , though Smith turned down the offer in favor of Superman Lives . Smith responded with , " Didn 't we say all we needed to say in the first Beetlejuice ? Must we go tropical ? " In March 1997 , Gems released a statement saying " The Beetlejuice Goes Hawaiian script is still owned by The Geffen Film Company and it will likely never get made . You really couldn 't do it now anyway . Winona is too old for the role , and the only way they could make it would be to totally recast it . "

In September 2011 , Warner Bros. hired Seth Grahame @-@ Smith , who collaborated with Burton on Dark Shadows and Abraham Lincoln : Vampire Hunter , to write and produce a sequel to Beetlejuice . Grahame @-@ Smith signed on with the intention of doing " a story that is worthy of us actually doing this for real , something that is not just about cashing in , is not just about forcing a remake or a reboot down someone 's throat . " He was also adamant that Keaton would return and that Warner Bros. would not recast the role . Burton and Keaton have not officially signed on but will return if the script is good enough . Grahame @-@ Smith met with Keaton in February 2012 , " We talked for a couple of hours and talked about big picture stuff . It 's a priority for Warner Bros. It 's a priority for Tim . [Michael 's] been wanting to do it for 20 years and he 'll talk to anybody about it who will listen . " The story will be set in a real time frame from 1988 ; " This will be a true 26 or 27 years later sequel . What 's great is that for Beetlejuice [sic] , time means nothing in the afterlife , but the world outside is a different story . "

In November 2013 , Ryder hinted at a possible return for the sequel as well by saying , " I 'm kind of sworn to secrecy but it sounds like it might be happening . It 's 27 years later . And I have to say , I love Lydia Deetz so much . She was such a huge part of me . I would be really interested in what she is doing 27 years later . " Ryder confirmed that she would only consider making a sequel if Burton and Keaton were involved . In December 2014 , Burton stated , " It 's a character that I love and I miss and I miss actually working with Michael . There 's only one Betelgeuse . We 're working on a script and I think it 's probably closer than ever and I 'd love to work with him again . " In January 2015 , writer Grahame @-@ Smith told Entertainment Weekly that the script was finished and that he and Burton intended to start filming Beetlejuice 2 by the end of the year , and that both Keaton and Ryder would return in their respective roles . In August 2015 , on Late Night with Seth Meyers , Ryder confirmed she would be reprising her role in the sequel . In May 2016 , Burton stated , " It 's something that I really would like to do in the right circumstances , but it 's one of those films where it has to be right . It 's not a kind of a movie that cries out [for a sequel] , it 's not the Beetlejuice trilogy . So it 's something that if the elements are right ? because I do love the character and Michael 's amazing as that character , so yeah we 'll see . But there 's nothing concrete yet . "

= = Theme park attractions = =

Beetlejuice has had several theme park shows at Universal Studios Hollywood , Universal Studios Florida and Universal Studios Japan . Beetlejuice 's Rock and Roll Graveyard Revue ran at the Hollywood park from 1992 until 1999 while the Florida park ran the show from May 1992 until January 2016 . The character of Beetlejuice was also in the now defunct " Extreme Ghostbusters : The Great Fright Way ! " . He was also a featured part of Halloween Horror Nights in the early days of the Orlando park .