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The Running Man Reviews

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Reel Film Reviews

1d

 2/4

...a progressively lackluster adaptation...

[Go to Full Review](#)**Louisa Moore** 

Screen Zealots

2d



A wildly entertaining Stephen King adaptation with standout casting, slick visuals, thrilling action, and a smart modern spin.

[Go to Full Review](#)

DH

Dennis Harvey 

48 Hills

3d



It reveals Wright doesn't have a natural flair for staging action. And while the antifascist political jabs made are on-point, they're also done in broad strokes that ultimately sink beneath the general mechanics of a generic mall flick.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Steven Prokopy

Third Coast Review

4d

3.5/4

Powell keeps showing us new sides to his talents as an actor, and although it will be tough to top his work in the 2023 Richard Linklater-directed Hit Man, what he accomplishes in The Running Man is both darkly funny and full of worthy outrage.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Nelson Acosta

Koimoi

5d

2.5/5

Glen Powell does the best he can in The Running Man, directed by one of the best directors around, but the result is a film with no personality and no memorable elements.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Dwight Brown

DwightBrownInk.com

5d

2/4

The filmmakers should be grateful that Powell is running as fast as he can while carrying their dead weight.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Mark Meszoros

The News-Herald (Willoughby, OH)

Nov 27

2/4

Watching it left us increasingly worn out by its excesses. Not counting the credits, the movie is just over two hours long, but it feels longer — even as its relentless pace ensures it never drags.

[Go to Full Review](#)



John McDonald

johnmcdonald.net.au

Nov 27

*

For us the major interest is how this chase will end, which renders two hours of furious action merely academic. Wright is obviously hoping we'll be so engrossed in following Ben's next move that we'll live imaginatively within the film moment by moment.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Kiko Martinez

The Cinesnob Podcast

Nov 26

C

There's spectacle here, but not in a good way. Edgar Wright's creativity should've injected humor, but it's missing throughout.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Mel Valentin

That Shelf

Nov 25

Wright's nimble direction, retro-futuristic production design, and Glen Powell's personification of a rage-filled anti-hero-turned-hero, make Wright's adaptation a worthwhile, if ultimately frustrating, experience on the big or small screen.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Mey Rude

MR Out Magazine

Nov 25

C-

Overall, *The Running Man* is fun, flashy, and exciting, and would be a terrific effort by a lesser film maker. Unfortunately, many fans will expect more from a master like Wright, and this film falls short of his standards.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Jonathan Dean

JD Sunday Times (UK) 

Nov 24

 1/5

If this satirises anything, it is how lazy Hollywood has become; when even its prescience is half a century old.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Neely Swanson 

Beverly Hills Courier

Nov 24

 *

Wright has constructed a movie of scenes, all of which seem to stand alone but never completely mesh into a cohesive unit.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Marriska Fernandes 

Exclaim!

Nov 24

 7/10

'*The Running Man*' thrives as a popcorn movie, designed to be enjoyed on the biggest screen possible.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Marcelo Paredes

MP Cinencuentro 

Nov 24

...*The Running Man* is a very well-made action film, with ideas that, while they could have been refined in certain parts, are solidly presented. [Full review in Spanish]

[Go to Full Review](#)



Mel Campbell 
ABC Radio (Australia)
Nov 23



Having read the dark, bleak novel, I'm amazed by how faithful The Running Man is ... Feels futuristic but still has that retro '70s, '80s vibe. ... One of [Edgar Wright's] best films in years: Wright's eye for detail and visual irony is really on show here.

[Go to Full Review](#)



John Daniel Tangalin 
The Cinema Spot
Nov 23



5/5

With its visual language and style, the film's superficial appearance is intended as melodramatic to the point that it requires a darkly comic element to balance the genres to avoid a totally bleak nature.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Luis Martínez
LM **El Mundo (Spain)** 
Nov 21



3/5

Edgar Wright infuses the 80s film with dynamism, fury, and the sweat of Glen Powell, without entirely preventing it from resulting somewhat old and worn. [Full review in Spanish]

[Go to Full Review](#)

Fausto Fernandez 
FF **Fotogramas**
Nov 21



4/5

'The Running Man' is the most viscerally political film of the year, the most direct and the least complacent in its subservience to the Hollywood blockbuster. [Full review in Spanish]

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Keri O'Shea**

Warped Perspective

Nov 21

B-

The film cycles through pursuit, paranoia and violence in turns, leading into a finale which feels like a good payoff even if – and this is a key criticism – it can't quite trust itself to just tell the original tale.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Eileen Jones**

The Jacobin

Nov 21

Even by the often absurdly unrealistic standards of Hollywood filmmaking, the early scenes are so phony it's painful.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Todd Jorgenson**

Cinemalogue

Nov 21

Favoring straightforward action over edgy satire, the film predictably funnels into a series of death-defying escapes emphasizing spectacle over substance.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Adam Kempenaar**

Filmspotting

Nov 21

2.5/5

Wright juggles dystopian thrills, satire, sentiment, and slapstick, but never nails any of them. The result is a genre mashup that feels more muddled than masterful.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Sara Michelle Fetter**

MovieFreak.com



Nov 21

1.5/4

I say change the channel and go watch something else.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Kathia Woods**

The Philadelphia Tribune

Nov 19

7/10

In the end, Wright has made a fantastic adaptation that stays true to the dark, sad mood of King's book while also giving viewers a new and exciting movie experience.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Nicolás Delgadillo**

Knotfest

Nov 19

Wright is clearly having a blast as he so often does in his films, and it's contagious.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Nicholas Bell**

Fish Jelly Films (YouTube)

Nov 18

3/5

Suddenly, the dystopic nightmares of Stephen King feel so topical as Edgar Wright's remake of The Running Man strangely feels like the most pertinent, if still glossy, narrative film he's ever directed, aided by Glen Powell's throwback matinee...

[Go to Full Review](#)**Rick Bentley**

RB KGET-TV (Bakersfield, CA)

Nov 18

B

Wright's film gets points for sticking so closely to the book (although the endings are very different). Couple that with strong action sequences and an acceptable acting job by Powell and "The Running Man" goes the extra mile.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Tim Cogshell

FilmWeek (LAist)

Nov 18

A \$110 million mess... Between [the original and the remake], all you had to was just make one good movie, and they missed.

[Go to Full Review](#)



James Verniere

Boston Movie News

Nov 18

B

Schwarzeneggerwas and still is unique screen presence. Powell is more like the new Tom Cruise. This "Running Man" is fun (and punk) in bursts. But it often runs out of steam.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Beth Accomando

KPBS.org

Nov 18

"The Running Man" is an entertaining watch but it does not offer the repeat viewing fun of the original film or Wright's Cornetto Trilogy.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Susan Granger

SSG Syndicate

Nov 18

6/10

Edgar Wright delivers fast-paced sci-fi so it's up to Glen Powell to propel the pictures. Since the charming charisma he oozed in 'Hit Man' is barely visible, Powell relies on the physicality he honed working with Tom Cruise in 'Top Gun: Maverick.'

[Go to Full Review](#)**Juanma Fernández París** 

JF **El Nuevo Día (Puerto Rico)**
Nov 18



...Wright never loses his grip on the plot and precision so that the most grandiose elements don't feel like an overdose of disposable action. [Full review in Spanish]

[Go to Full Review](#)**Hugo Hernández Valdivia** 

HH **Cinexcepción**
Nov 18



The film's value lies in two interconnected aspects: technology used for manipulation and an organization that wields power through it. [Full review in Spanish]

[Go to Full Review](#)**Jorge Loser**

JL **Cinemanía (Spain)** 
Nov 18



Edgar Wright directs a combative anti-blockbuster that never tires of entertaining with its doses of satire against the media. [Full review in Spanish]

[Go to Full Review](#)**Abbie Bernstein** 

AB **Assignment X**
Nov 18



Decent actioner with a social satire backbone.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Brian Viner

BV

Daily Mail (UK)

Nov 18

4/5

It's exciting and energetic, and Powell is a charismatic lead.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Katherine McLaughlin**

KM

SciFiNow

Nov 18

4/5

Wright may drop way too much into the mix with *The Running Man* but it's a film that certainly goes for gold and nearly achieves it as an old school Hollywood blockbuster with modern sensibilities.

[Go to Full Review](#) **Michael Clark****Epoch Times**

Nov 18

2.5/5

I'm not fond of these kinds of movies. Not for quality reasons, but because they leave me feeling unmoved and apathetic. The opposite of love isn't hate, it's indifference. Love and hate require passion.

[Go to Full Review](#) **Rob Gonsalves****Rob's Movie Vault**

Nov 18

B+

Some dialogue in '*The Running Man*' is a little obvious, but in general Wright uses the plot to illustrate the peril of prizes awarded for winning the corporate/government game.

[Go to Full Review](#) **Bob Grimm****Reno News and Review**

Nov 18

 2.25/5

Starts off well, but fades due to a lack of variety, good dialogue.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Alise Chaffins** 

MacGuffin or Meaning (Substack)

Nov 18

 3.5/5

Based on the novel by the same name, this movie manages to disguise a very direct message about propaganda and wealth inequality as a popcorn blockbuster with varying degrees of success.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Tori Preston**

TP

 Pajiba

Nov 17



It works! It's an entertaining diversion! But rather than being a smart or clever adaptation, it settles for just being cheeky, winking at its themes in broad strokes and letting us connect the dots.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Linda Holmes** 

LH

NPR

Nov 17



As an action movie that hits the gas, gets the running man running, and doesn't let up, it works quite well, and it's a lot of fun. But some of King's sharper-elbowed commentary... is blunted a bit.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Samarth Goyal**

SG

 Hindustan Times

Nov 17

4/5

Wright is in stride, but not in full sprint — delivering a dystopian ride that entertains consistently, yet stops just short of becoming the razor-edged satire it wants to be.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Nick Johnston**

Vanyaland

Nov 17



By no means is The Running Man the best work of Wright's career, suffering from the fits and starts of the chase movie, but the problems with it mostly stem from the director trying to preserve King's text.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Tim Brennan**

About Boulder

Nov 17



As I watched the film, I kept thinking that it felt like an action movie from the 90s, such as The Rock or Speed. One of those films based around a ridiculous central premise that digs into the concept.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Alci Rengifo**

Entertainment Voice

Nov 17



Wright remains a wonderfully visual director who crafts images of incredible detail. "The Running Man" would do better catching its breath, but what it's trying to say can be chillingly familiar.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Candice McMillan**

Seattle Refined

Nov 17



The Running Man is cheap and glossy... As a director who has tackled the gamut, from solemn action dramas to satire comedies, Wright lands The Running Man closer to Hot Fuzz than Baby Driver, but it is, against our better judgement, still terribly fun.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Keith Garlington**

Keith & the Movies

Nov 17

2.5/5

"The Running Man" gets stuck in between being thematically overstuffed and playfully action-packed while lacking that extra pizzazz we've come to expect from Edgar Wright films.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Alan French**

Sunshine State Cineplex

Nov 17

5/10

Many will say that The Running Man is a purely enjoyable time, and for some that might be enough. However, given the level of filmmaker and source material, this feels like a missed opportunity.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Ruth Maramis**

FlixChatter Film Blog

Nov 17

2.5/5

A lively popcorn action flick that's entertaining enough for a little over two hours, but ultimately forgettable. Powell did his best, but the vibrant energy of the first two acts fizzles out by the third.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Jackson Weaver**

CBC News

Nov 17

2/5

We already have The Purge at home, Edgar Wright. No need to dress it up as Battle Royale.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Joshua Ryan**



FandomWire

Nov 17

7/10

The performances do much of the heavy lifting, keeping the energy high in a surprisingly tame script. The movie is never bad; it just lacks the spark and uniqueness expected from an Edgar Wright film.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Sarah Vincent**

Sarah G Vincent Views

Nov 16

Wright's film offers action with incisive sociopolitical commentary, but in the final act, loses momentum in trying to find a resolution that lives up to the everything that came before.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Daniel Rester**

DR

Under the Radar

Nov 16

7/10

The real star of the show, however, might be production designer Marcus Rowland. He manages to make the environments look believably futuristic without them becoming overly slick.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Matthew St. Clair**

Cinematic Words of a Chaotic Gemini (Substack)

Nov 16

B-

Even when the film goes off the rails in tone, Powell nails every serious and comical character beat.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Cody Leach**

Cody Leach (YouTube)

Nov 16

 4/5

This version of The Running Man is a very fun and exciting old-school action movie that feels strangely devoid of Edgar Wright's standout style.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Sarah Marrs** SM Lainey Gossip
Nov 16

Glen Powell remains an immensely charming screen presence, and it's a testament to his star power that The Running Man works as much as it does. [...but] The Running Man [has] too many problems for even Powell to overcome completely.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Sergio Valentino**SV MovieJawn 
Nov 16

Edgar Wright's The Running Man is messy, ambitious, and sometimes too clever for its own good, but it's also pulsing with the energy of a filmmaker trying new things.

[Go to Full Review](#) **Anthony Morris** It's Better in the Dark
Nov 16 3/5

The pace is where Wright really succeeds here; the film moves fast enough to keep you leaning in, rushing past points where the story or setting feel just a little flimsy

[Go to Full Review](#) **Rachel Wagner** Rachel's Reviews (YouTube)
Nov 16

The tight editing helps a lot. Charismatic movie star leading it. Entertaining blockbuster

[Go to Full Review](#)**Korey Coleman**

Double Toasted

Nov 16



The Running Man never goes full Edgar Wright. It's a fun action movie, but it doesn't play to the director's strengths.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Reanna Cruz**

RC Pop Culture Happy Hour (NPR Podcast)

Nov 15



They make some good points, but I think they just stop short of fully realizing the ideas that they set out to establish.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Ronald Young Jr.**

RY Pop Culture Happy Hour (NPR Podcast)

Nov 15



It's a fine movie for just going in and watching a movie.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Laia Cabuli**

EscribiendoCine

Nov 15



Despite some changes from the original text, this is a great adaptation of King's novel, perfectly capturing the essence of the book. [Full review in Spanish]

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Lady Jenevia** 
LadyJenevia (YouTube)
Nov 15



Vapid and vacuous, The Running Man (2025) is as noisy and violent a spectacle as the exploitative show in the story. A cowardly refusal to include any of the book's most interesting ideas ensures this adaptation is devoid of any nutritional value.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Simon Foster** 
Screen-Space (Substack)
Nov 15



2.5/5

Surely a sharp-minded filmmaker like Edgar Wright can wring some cutting topicality and blockbuster action out of this material? [But he] numbs the material's inherent satirical value, his leading man's charisma and any franchise-kicker potential.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Jana Monji** 
Age of the Geek
Nov 15



3/5

This is miles better than the Arnold Schwarzenegger flick. Glen Powell is a convincing angry man and fans not only get his smile, but some thirst trap moments.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Murjani Rawls** 
Substream Magazine
Nov 15



The 2025 iteration puts the spotlight on all of it, but also takes on the spirit of spectacle it's hoping to damn.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Mathew DeKinder** 



Mat's Entertainment
Nov 15

✳️ 2.5/5

"The Running Man" almost makes it across the finish line based on Powell's charisma alone.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Patrick Beatty ✅
ABC4 Utah
Nov 15



While having impressive stunt work and some fun moments with familiar faces from his previous projects, "The Running Man" stalls in the third act.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Nandini Ramnath
NR
Scroll.in ✅
Nov 15

Deeply invested in Ben's bust-to-boom journey, Powell stays on course in a movie that loses sight of the finishing line.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Ganesh Aaglave
GA
Firstpost ✅
Nov 15

🍅 3/5

While the plot looks typical Bollywoodish underdog story, the stylish treatment, along with some masterful chase sequences, make it a gripping and thrilling affair. Despite being predictable, the film's social commentary hits the right chord.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Josh Larsen ✅
LarsenOnFilm
Nov 15

🍅 2/4

What wins out: the wit or the wonkiness?

[Go to Full Review](#)



Shubhra Gupta

The Indian Express

Nov 15

2.5/5

...Powell doesn't have the depth to dig deeper than he does; neither does the film. Soon enough, it becomes a drag, and stays that way.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Abby Olcese

AO

The Pitch

Nov 14

It's clear Powell wants to be Cruise or Brad Pitt-level. But what might that look like? The Running Man has the answer, and it's pretty damn compelling.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Brian Lowry

BL

Status News

Nov 14

5/10

Ultimately, Wright's vision proves too disjointed to fully work as either dark satire or R-rated action, getting a boost from Powell's charisma and, with everyone else essentially reduced to extended cameos, not much else.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Serena Seghedoni

Loud and Clear Reviews

Nov 14

4/5

With a likable protagonist, smart narrative choices, and the kind of flawless technical execution we've come to expect from Wright and his team, *The Running Man* is a gripping and timely adaptation that you should definitely seek out.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Mike McGranaghan** Aisle Seat
Nov 14

3/4

The action scenes are energetically staged, with Powell convincingly making his way through them.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Peter Travers** The Travers Take
Nov 14

2.5/4

Glen Powell runs for his life to win a reality TV jackpot in a remake of a dystopian Stephen King thriller that comes on like *gangbusters*—until it loses steam

[Go to Full Review](#)**Rosa Parra** The Latino Slant
Nov 14

6/10

The Running Man falls short of delivering a truly exciting action thriller. Instead, it presents a straightforward underdog story with action sequences sprinkled with random, ineffective jokes.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Sean Chandler** Sean Chandler Talks About
Nov 14

B+

While it may lack Edgar Wright's usual directorial flourishes, it's still a fun and thoughtful popcorn film.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Ronak Kotecha
The Times of India 
Nov 14

 3/5

The Running Man doesn't reinvent its genre or outsmart its audience, but it delivers a slick, fast-paced survival thriller that's both entertaining and thought-provoking.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Stephanie Zacharek 
TIME Magazine
Nov 14



The Running Man is just a slog.

[Go to Full Review](#)



John Lui
The Straits Times (Singapore) 
Nov 14

 3/5

The goodwill earned by strong action and sharp satire is almost cancelled out by a needlessly twisty, overstuffed finale.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Lupe Rodriguez Haas 
CineMovie.tv
Nov 14

 B+

Edgar Wright drags the 80s action movie into the present with slick, high-tech energy. Glenn Powell is a charismatic powerhouse. For fans of 80s action staples like Total Recall and RoboCop, the film hits every target.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Rick Romancito 
The Taos News

Nov 14



B

... one supposes it's Stephen King's attempt to put in his two cents about just who controls who amid the chaos of our world.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Jonathan Romney**

JR Financial Times

Nov 14



3/5

It all somewhat comes undone in a confusing, slightly desperate coda but is otherwise a genial, b racingly manic entertainment.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Diamond Fudge**

KCCI (Des Moines, IA)

Nov 14



Hewing much closer to the source novel than the 1987 version, Edgar Wright's "The Running Man" is a frenetic, action-packed ride full of exciting set pieces as well as a deeper message about out of control capitalism.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Sam Adams**

Slate

Nov 14



It sparks to life only for brief periods.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Brent Hankins**

The Lamplight Review

Nov 14



5/10

The Running Man feels like a diluted version of its own ambitions. The 1987 Schwarzenegger adaptation may have been campy as all hell, but I would argue that it had a much stronger sense of identity.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Prabhjot Bains

RANGE Magazine

Nov 14



Even if The Running Man unfolds like a softer, less subversive Paul Verhoeven flick, it endures as a reminder of the rougher, rowdier, raunchier joys that used to define the blockbuster landscape.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Wendy Ide

WI

Observer (UK)

Nov 14



It might not be especially sharp in its insights or tidy in its plotting, but it's a rousing, cobweb-clearing blast of a movie: a piece of propulsive popcorn entertainment that feels like a direct descendant of 1990s Paul Verhoeven.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Dulcie Pearce

DP

The Sun (UK)

Nov 14



3/5

There is plenty to keep you entertained here, with lots of stunts and all-action near-misses to get the adrenaline pumping. Powell, however, feels a little lost in this role.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Mark Kermode

MK

Kermode and Mayo's Take (YouTube)

Nov 14



It's a romp.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Rich Cline**

Shadows on the Wall

Nov 14

3/5

Edgar Wright packs witty gags, knowing references and gung-ho mayhem throughout this propulsive action-romp remake. Thankfully, this keeps the pace from dragging, even with the epic running time and anecdotal structure.

[Go to Full Review](#)**James Berardinelli**

ReelViews

Nov 14

2.5/4

There really isn't much that feels new, and the film's themes about societal rot resulting from obsessive media consumption now seem almost dated because that's simply our reality.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Jeffrey M. Anderson**

Combustible Celluloid

Nov 14

3.5/4

This is one of the rare occasions in which a remake easily outguns its predecessor.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Lalo Ortega**

LO

Cine Premiere

Nov 14

2.5/5

Edgar Wright delivers a thrilling action film, but with a lackluster commentary on the society of spectacle. [Full review in Spanish]

[Go to Full Review](#)

Kate Stables
KS Sight & Sound ★
Nov 14



Between the skilful action sequences, the winking gags and the ever-looming threat of Lee Pace's masked master-hunter Chief McCone (whose gun and knife are inscribed 'Fate' and Destiny'), it's a highly enjoyable thrill-ride for a good stretch of time.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Alison Willmore** ★
New York Magazine/Vulture
Nov 14



The Running Man is just close enough to our reality for what it's missing to feel hopelessly distracting, and what it's missing, more than anything, are the online forces shaping our reality.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Dan Scully** ★
ScullyVision
Nov 14



It's a credit to Wright that the massive ensemble and sprawling plot never feel unwieldy. I just wish that he risked some behind-the-camera unwieldiness — this is an uncharacteristically safe movie.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Lisa Laman**
The Spool ★
Nov 14



The revolution may start with The Running Man, but it is a stumbling beginning.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Rafer Guzman**



Newsday ★

Nov 14

* 0/4

Arnold Schwarzenegger's cheesiest movie is now also Glen Powell's thanks to this plodding, uninspired remake.

[Go to Full Review](#)**G. Allen Johnson**

GA

San Francisco Chronicle ★

Nov 14

* 2/4

The inherent problem with "The Running Man" is the actual running.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Patrick McDonald** 

WBGR-FM (93.7 FM - Monroe, WI)

Nov 14

🍅 3/5

Barest recco, just b/c I dig Edgar Wright. I think the size of this one got to him, though, and the jury is out for Glen Powell leading man, w/the whitest teeth in Dystopia. However the Wright cinema stuff is there, and Michael Cera is a highlight. RUN!

[Go to Full Review](#)**David Jenkins**

DJ

Little White Lies ★

Nov 14

* 2/5

The humour in the script is mostly juvenile and flat.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Micheal Compton** 

Bowling Green Daily News

Nov 14

🍅 B

But it all comes back to Powell, who has quickly established himself as a bona fide movie star. His charm and onscreen charisma does a lot of the heavy-lifting here, making Ben both an every man and a super hero that audiences want to root for.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Linda and Al Lerner

Movies and Shakers

Nov 14



Powell does ridiculously difficult stunts leaving no way out, but Ben keeps right on ticking. After a while, it gets a little tiresome, but somehow, Wright, with Glen Powell's good looks and boundless energy, this Running Man gets enough traction.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Matt Lynch

ML

In Review Online

Nov 14



The execution isn't incompetent by any margin, but everything feels undeniably sanded down... Ultimately, The Running Man is a 130-minute pulled punch.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Victoria Luxford

Clash Magazine

Nov 14



8/10

While perhaps unlikely to attain the same cult status as its predecessor, The Running Man is a heck of a lot of fun from a filmmaker who has proven time and again that he can make big scale action with a brain.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Mikel Zorrilla

Espinof

Nov 14



7/10

An atypical blockbuster that isn't afraid to criticize and even mock some basic elements of American culture. (Full review in spanish)

[Go to Full Review](#)



Guillermo Troncoso

Screen Realm

Nov 14

3/5

This could have been sharper, more focused, more creative. What we're left with is a fun, if frustratingly uneven, pursuit that never quite turns its sprint into a proper rush.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Nate Adams

The Only Critic

Nov 14

Instead of Wright's usual kinetic confidence, we get a blender full of half-formed social commentary about surveillance states, media manipulation, and systemic oppression.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Joonatan Itkonen

Region Free

Nov 14

3/5

By the time the film reaches the final stretch... Wright pulls his punches even further. His third act plays everything so safe that we get the rare case where the adaptation has a worse ending than King's original book.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Jonathan W. Hickman

The Newnan Times-Herald

Nov 14

5/10

"The Running Man" is a scattershot, frustrating attempt to track the source material rather than using it as a jumping-off point for another of Wright's entertaining adventures.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Sreeju Sudhakaran**

LatestLY.com

Nov 14

3/5

The Running Man is Edgar Wright's most mainstream film to date - a politically charged action thriller that reflects our present more than it predicts the future, with Glen Powell leading from the front.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Leo Brady**

AMovieGuy.com

Nov 14

2/4

In the end, The Running Man isn't just uneven; it feels like two films wrestling for control. And neither one wins.

[Go to Full Review](#)**David Harris**

Spectrum Culture

Nov 13

This topical action remake doesn't commit to its dystopia.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Jeffrey Harris**

411mania

Nov 13

5/10

The movie is not altogether terrible, but it ultimately unravels with a rough third act and a clunky ending that looks like it was torn apart and later sewn back together from reshoots and focus groups.

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Sean Burns**

North Shore Movies

Nov 13



One of those megabudget movies from a major media conglomerate that spouts facile, anti-corporate slogans amid the wall-to-wall product placement.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Russ Simmons**

KKFI-FM (Kansas City)

Nov 13



3/5

The biggest problem with "The Running Man" is the running time.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Jesse Hassenger**

AV Club

Nov 13



B-

The movie succeeds on the level of invigorating pop entertainment more often than not, at least until it overstays its welcome in a distended, herky-jerk final half-hour.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Christopher Lloyd**

The Film Yap

Nov 13



3/5

Screwy storytelling and muddled political messaging make for an update of the Schwarzenegger action sci-fi that can't decide which way to go.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Simon Miraudo**

Movie Squad (RTRFM 92.1)

Nov 13

 3/5

Technically proficient, with a charming cast and a tangible sense of place through excellent production design. But we don't evaluate films with a Marking Key, and it's the intangibles like tone, shape and verve that keep this from really singing.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Marcelo Stiletano**

MS  La Nación (Argentina) 
Nov 13

 4/5

Wright handles each confrontation and each escape with immense skill, visual precision, and plenty of humor. [Full review in Spanish]

[Go to Full Review](#)**Richard Whittaker**

RW  Austin Chronicle 
Nov 13

 3/5

When it's really up to speed, *The Running Man* laps the competition.

[Go to Full Review](#) **Manohla Dargis** 

New York Times
Nov 13



There's nothing wrong (or incorrect!) about either Wright's desire to please or the righteousness, and at times you can sense a bit of anger wafting off the screen, even if Wright and Powell mostly seem to be having a very good time.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Dominic Baez**

DB  Seattle Times 
Nov 13

 2.5/4

As a humorous action film, it's an enjoyable experience. As a social commentary on a dystopian America, it mostly just trips over itself.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Michael Walsh**

MW  Nerdist

Nov 13

 **4.5/5**

I think it will ultimately work for a lot of doubters on a second viewing. Once you understand what The Running Man is actually saying, and that the unusual way it speaks and why, you'll appreciate why this excellent film works.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Kristian M. Lin 

 Fort Worth Weekly

Nov 13



Despite its intellectual shortcomings, it's a great time from a filmmaker who deserves a bigger audience.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Chris Klimek

 Washington Post



Nov 13

 **3.5/4**

Wright has an appealing and spry leading man in Glen Powell, who channels the boiling rage of his accidental-insurgent character, Ben Richards, far more persuasively than Ah-nold did.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Adam Graham

 Detroit News



Nov 13

 D

Forget going the distance, this "Running Man" never makes it out of the starting gate.

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Robert Denerstein** 

Denerstein Unleashed

Nov 13



The Running Man has the all-too-familiar markings of a movie that wants to be a summer blockbuster. But, as I said at the outset, this is November.

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Alex Bentley** 

CultureMap

Nov 13



The Running Man is a big misfire by Wright and a blow to Powell's star power. On the surface, it has all the hallmarks of an action thriller with a side of social commentary, but nothing it does or says lands in any meaningful way.

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Amy Nicholson** 

Los Angeles Times

Nov 13



Instead of a funhouse mirror of what could be, it's merely a smudged reflection of what is.

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Frank Swietek** 

FS

One Guy's Opinion

Nov 13



Despite all the money and talent thrown into the mix, Wright's 'Running Man' turns out to be a pretty flatfooted affair [with] a pandering close that King, though listed as an executive producer, could hardly have warmly embraced.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Nick Howells**NH London Evening Standard ★
Nov 13 3/5

This is far from a trainwreck (good company while chomping through a kilo of popcorn) but don't run to the cinema.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Clarisse Loughrey** ★Independent (UK)
Nov 13 2/5

What should, quite easily, feel like a mirror's been smashed and its pieces methodically jammed between our ribs, feels closer to a friendly knock on the shoulder. The material's all there, yet there's none of the urgency.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Barry Hertz**Globe and Mail ★
Nov 13

Presented with every opportunity to say or do something remotely new or compelling, Wright, typically a talented stylist, elects to shrug his shoulders, delivering a wafer-thin confection that is aggressively disinterested in both ideas and action.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Alistair Harkness**AH Scotsman ✓
Nov 13 4/5

Directing his first all-out blockbuster, Wright puts the film-geek sensibility he honed on the likes of Shaun of the Dead and Baby Driver to good use here, skewering the barbaric TV world that serves as a backdrop to the film.

Go to Fullerenes Jahns ✓

JJ JeremyJahns.com
Nov 13



This is my least favorite Edgar Wright movie.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Randy Myers
San Jose Mercury News ★
Nov. 13



3.5/4

Really this is just an exceptionally well-made hot rod of an action film that powers over the finish line swiftly and sleekly. It's a lightning bolt of pure moviemaking magic.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Eric Marchen 
Rogers TV
Nov 13



B

A tryout montage transitionally activates the Wright stuff, galvanizing propulsive stunt work to maximum overdrive.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Thom Ernst
Original Cin ✓
Nov 13



The Running Man arrives as a surprise — not unwelcome, just surprisingly stilted for a director who usually spikes his films with mischief. Wright's fidelity to King borders on reverent, as though the author is standing over his shoulder with a red pen.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Chase Hutchinson
The Inlander (Spokane, WA)
Nov 13

1.5/4

Rather than see him leave his mark on the material, the director feels, for the first time in his career, incidental to it.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Joseph Robinson
Fish Jelly Films (YouTube)
Nov 13

3.5/5

Glen Powell carries this high-octane, socially charged spectacle — a bold ride that runs out of steam in the final act.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Lucas Moore
Big Gold Belt Media
Nov 13

B

If you had any question regarding the star power of Glenn Powell it all goes away quickly with this satisfying adaptation of The Running Man. This is the great Fall blockbuster audiences have been waiting for..

[Go to Full Review](#)



Mark Hughes
Forbes
Nov 13

[A] rousing call for courage, moral clarity, and action in the face of threats not only to our freedoms and society, but to our very humanity itself. It's the sort of studio picture you rarely expect, and even more rarely get.

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Kyle Wilson**

The Lamplight Review

Nov 13

3/5

A passable blockbuster, but just can't outrun it's messy, bad third act. The film can't seem to decide if it's a campy 80s throwback action flick or a commentary on social media and revolution - and those two visions don't mesh in this one.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Oscar Goff**

Cambridge Day

Nov 13

3/4

It's madcap pulp, attuned to the times, as Richards steels himself against spiraling poverty, mindless media saturation and masked fascist thugs.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Mark Dujcik**

Mark Reviews Movies

Nov 13

3/4

That the film is entertaining, in spite of its infuriatingly authoritarian backdrop and the sheer hopelessness of the scenario, is something of an accomplishment.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Jorge Rivera Rubio**

QiiBO

Nov 13

3/5

A savage satire of greed, mass control, & the immense danger of combining the social powers of corporations, media, & government... wrapped in maniacal action sequences, humor, & the spectacular soundtrack one expects from Wright. [Full review in Spanish]

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Matt Goldberg**

Decoding Everything (Substack)

Nov 13

2.5/5

Never has director Edgar Wright made a film that felt so anonymous and ill-suited to his gifts.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Nagier Chambers**

Big Gold Belt Media

Nov 13

C

Fast, flashy, and fearlessly entertaining—this is the kind of sci-fi adventure that proves popcorn cinema can still have a pulse.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Richard Crouse**

Richard Crouse

Nov 13

3/5

A survival thriller that puts a human face on the story's themes of economic coercion, personal sacrifice and class inequality, The Running Man is slick, high-energy satire laced with grim social messages.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Jim Schembri**

jimschembri.com

Nov 13

1.5/5

There's nothing at all in the film that justifies why - in the name of bladder tolerances - the thing runs one second over 90 minutes....Another unwelcome incursion into the Arniverse.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Ben Morganti**

CBR

Nov 13

 8/10

With *The Running Man*'s unavoidable satirical context, the 2025 thriller leans into the various tonal balances as best it can and does a better job than the 1987 original in this regard.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Rebecca Johnson** 

Talking Films

Nov 13

 3/5

With action aplenty and competent performances from a stellar cast headed by Powell, *The Running Man* proposes a story full of energy and high stakes, yet is let down by repetitive messaging and a clunky finale.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Karina Adelgaard** 

Heaven of Horror

Nov 13

 3/5

My one big hurdle with this 2025 version of *THE RUNNING MAN* is that the ending felt forced. I am all for the wild action sequences, the 1980s retro vibe, and even the dark comedy and charming, but flawed, hero. However, it is too long. And especially...

[Go to Full Review](#)**Jeanne Kaplan** 

Kaplan vs. Kaplan

Nov 12



It's a wild ride --- a very entertaining, albeit brutal expose of our human thirst for blood and death.

[Go to Full Review](#)**David Kaplan** 

Kaplan vs. Kaplan

Nov 12



THE RUNNING MAN is truly a whirlwind adventure. Because of Powell's broad appeal, his character --- who can out-muscle just about anyone in his way --- is someone for whom we can easily root. Otherwise, the movie would be a bust.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Dana Han-Klein 
We're Watching What?!
Nov 12

 **3.4/5**

While Wright does a great job enhancing the dystopian (sadly seemingly still on track) future King foretold, unfortunately Powell's casting makes the whole thing fall apart as he fails to sell the depths of emotion this new version tries to pull off.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Matt Donato 
Matt Donato (Authory)
Nov 12

 **2.5/5**

It's a jumble of well-intentioned rebellion and confused execution, albeit with a splash of explosive excitement to keep us distracted ... without Wright's name in the credits, I'd never believe this was an Edgar Wright flick.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Johnny Oleksinski
New York Post 
Nov 12

 **1.5/4**

Where is Wright's mastery of tone and zany-but-unnerving quick-cut style? It's been replaced by a cacophony of assembly-line sci-fi noise in a blah "Blade Runner" that, depending on the scene, is either stupidly serious or seriously stupid.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Leigh Paatsch
LP Daily Telegraph (Australia) 
Nov 12

 **2.5/5**

While director Edgar Wright does a fine job in depicting a chilling future where an unholy trinity of technology, media and money will rule above all else, he cannot cover for the deficiencies of the main character.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Anthony O'Connor

AO FILMINK (Australia) 

Nov 12

 16/20

... a music-driven crowd pleaser of a flick and one of the best high octane, pure action films in recent memory.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Paul McGuire Grimes** 

Paul's Trip to the Movies

Nov 12

 4/5

It packs a punch when you sit back and realize how Stephen King's once dystopian view has now become a reality.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Breeze Riley 

BR Multiverse of Color

Nov 12



Dystopian movies have had their day and then some on the big screen, but The Running Man is the perfect action-packed and inspiring film for today's moment.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Andrea Chase 

AC Killer Movie Reviews

Nov 12

 4/5

Raises the stakes with a premise less fantasy and more prophetic. Smartly written with genuine suspense and surprises, it asks little of us, credulity wise, beyond believing that sprays of bullets will always miss when it comes to our hero.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Derrick Murray

NERDBOT

Nov 12

*

This should honestly be better, and somehow misses the mark at every turn, transforming an otherwise exciting action thriller into a dull, painfully long misfire...I'm not mad. I'm just disappointed.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Chris Wasser

CW

Sunday Independent (Ireland)

Nov 12

* 3/5

It's when matters are simpler, when a desperate father puts his life on the line to save a sick family, that *The Running Man* aces its assignment. Explain too much – add too many clumsy satirical twists to the tale – and the foundations begin to buckle.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Jon Negroni

InBetweenDrafts

Nov 12

* 6/10

By the time *The Running Man* stumbles into its finale, it's hard not to wish someone had hit pause around the halfway mark.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Peter Sobczynski

PS

Auteurist Class (Substack)

Nov 12

*

The Running Man proves to be a largely hollow experience—the kind that you struggle to remember anything about the morning after watching it.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Patrick Cavanaugh**

The Wolfman Cometh

Nov 12

2/5

Hard to believe this uninventive and uninspired rehash of an outdated premise came from Edgar Wright, who has previously proven himself to be one of the most exciting and creative directors of the last 20 years.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Philip De Semlyen**

Time Out

Nov 12

It's a movie that got up on the wrong side of the bed and compensated with four quadruple espresso.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Jake Wilson**

JW

Sydney Morning Herald

Nov 12

3.5/5

It isn't an outright spoof like Wright's Scott Pilgrim vs. the World, but it's still knowingly silly...

[Go to Full Review](#)**David Poland**

DP

Hot Button (Substack)

Nov 12

The Running Man is not a bad movie. But it should have been a fun movie. And the hope was that it would be a super-fun romp that didn't just feel like a journey from one enclosed space to another. Edgar Wright can deliver this. This time, he did not.

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Larushka Ivan-Zadeh**

metro.co.uk

Nov 12

4/5

Yes, the third act gets a little convoluted, but you're powered to the finish by Glen Powell's absolutely unstoppable star charisma.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Douglas Davidson**

Elements of Madness

Nov 12

4/5

... isn't quite as satirical as one might expect and can totally be absorbed as transient entertainment, but the depths of it are present and ready for those of us looking for a little more to dive into.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Meagan Navarro**

Bloody Disgusting

Nov 12

2/5

Wright quickly proves far too upbeat and optimistic for the material, yielding a brisk actioner that ultimately pulls its punches.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Chris Joyce**

Movies and Munchies (YouTube)

Nov 12

4/5

An entertainingly violent chase. While the pacing isn't consistently maintained, the exciting stunts, music beats perfectly aligned with the action, and the clashing aesthetics of the rich and poor create an engaging, if not long, survival story.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Lee McCoy**



DrumDums

Nov 12

6/10

Edgar Wright directing Glen Powell is a no-brainer. It's fun and energetic at times. The big problem is the last act goes off the rails and the film does struggle to keep you invested due to some pacing issues and bloated runtime.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Neil Pond

Neil's Entertainment Picks

Nov 12

3/5

Its high-octane mix of satire, drama, cautionary-tale messaging and explosive action doesn't always mesh. It sometimes feels like 'Blade Runner' crossed with 'Mission: Impossible' and 'Survivor,' with a razzle-dazzle-y dab of 'America's Got Talent.'

[Go to Full Review](#)

Kat Hughes

THN

Nov 12

4/5

Glen Powell continues to prove his aptitude for glossy blockbuster cinema. Opting to stick closer to the source material, Wright's The Running Man is a great dystopian actioner for right now.

[Go to Full Review](#)

James Mottram

JM

NME (New Musical Express)

Nov 12

3/5

The Running Man is a vibrant action-adventure. A neat companion to the recent One Battle After Another with a revolutionary spirit coursing through its veins.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Jack Martin



Film Feeder
Nov 12

3.5/5

The Running Man sees Edgar Wright bring his trademark energetic style to a more faithful version of Stephen King's novel that, despite an uneven script and an exhausting feeling one gets from simply enduring parts of it, remains a fun enough watch.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Katie Smith-Wong
Flick Feast
Nov 12

3/5

As an adaptation, Wright's faithfulness to King's novel creates a striking world that allows Powell to continue shining as Hollywood's latest action star.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Aaron Neuwirth
We Live Entertainment
Nov 11



While a bit too long for its own good, The Running Man is still a lot of fun with enough on its mind to try and convince an audience why its charismatic lead in the form of Glen Powell is meant to be so angry.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Matthew Jackson
Dread Central
Nov 11

3/5

In Edgar Wright's hands, The Running Man works more often than it doesn't, and despite tripping up a time or two, when it's at its best, it's one of the most exciting blockbuster experiences of the year.

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Brian Eggert**

Deep Focus Review

Nov 11

3.5/4

Wright delivers a movie that could be watched as a pure adrenaline rush. Its remarks on the class divide only enrich its sheer entertainment value.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Marshall Shaffer**

The Playlist

Nov 11

C+

"The Running Man" settles for being good when, if the topline talent had leaned into their fortés, it could have been truly great.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Peter Gray**

The AU Review

Nov 11

3.5/5

An enjoyable effort that provides plenty of merit and, perhaps most importantly, continues the trajectory of Powell's leading man persona – one that he has adopted with particular ease.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Avi Offer**

NYC Movie Guru

Nov 11

*

A toothless, shallow and tedious sci-fi action thriller that doesn't even manage to be fun or entertaining as a B-movie

[Go to Full Review](#)**Adam Olinger**

Adam Does Movies (YouTube)

Nov 11



I'm not mad at Edgar Wright, I'm just disappointed. The Running Man is a perfectly fine, entertaining film but I expect more from this director. Audiences will have a good time but don't expect the same level of craft, music and comedy Wright is known for

[Go to Full Review](#)



Fico Cangiano

CineXpress

Nov 11



3/5

It's definitely entertaining, but pacing make it feel too long for it's own good. Also, for better or worse, this didn't feel like an Edgar Wright film. [Full review in Spanish]

[Go to Full Review](#)



Robert Kojder

Flickering Myth

Nov 11



2.5/5

The Running Man comes across as unsure if it wants to meaningfully engage with the story's political themes or solely use them as a backdrop for 2+ hours of action. It's as if Edgar Wright is running scared; this is toothless filmmaking

[Go to Full Review](#)



Julian Roman

JR MovieWeb

Nov 11



2.5/5

What begins as a thoughtful, riveting and darkly comic action thriller limps through a drawn-out climax as The Running Man's excessive length becomes problematic.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Laura Potier

Starburst

Nov 11



4/5

Edgar Wright takes... Stephen King's The Running Man and runs with it – at full sprint, grinning, bleeding, and jabbing us in the ribs the whole way.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Zach Pope

Zach Pope Reviews

Nov 11

4/5

A movie you'll want to RUN to the theater for. Wright delivers a razor sharp, adrenaline fueled satire that brilliantly attacks our government & obsession with reality TV, all while keeping you on the edge of your seat.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Pat Bulfamante

The MontyVerse (YouTube)

Nov 11

4/5

The Running Man is a holiday blockbuster that doesn't fail to entertain. It's a slick, stylish, and explosive ride that proves Wright hasn't lost a step — and that Glen Powell's officially leveled up to a action star status.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Carla Hay

Culture Mix

Nov 11

*

The Running Man stumbles in the last 20 minutes by cramming in too many action clichés. The movie sacrifices development of supporting characters to showcase Glen Powell's hollow lead character. Changes made to the original story aren't very interesting.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Matt Zoller Seitz

MZ

RogerEbert.com

Nov 11

2.5/4

The relentless pace generates enough of an endorphin rush to power the movie beyond plausibility nitpicking.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Sebastian Zavala Kahn

Me gusta el cine

Nov 11

3.5/5

I found it just as entertaining as the 1980s version, but in a completely different way; more spectacular, faster-paced, and even a little overwhelming. The film works, but fans of Wright might be slightly disappointed. [Full review in Spanish].

[Go to Full Review](#)



Bob Chipman

Moviebob Central

Nov 11

5/10

Manages to make what felt boldly predictive in 1982 feel drably predictable for 2025; with an interesting cast stranded amid inconsistent characterizations and cultural commentary that's the opposite of cutting.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Doug Jamieson

The Jam Report

Nov 11

2.5/5

Slick, loud, and visually charged, Edgar Wright's new version feels both too much and not nearly enough. It moves fast but goes nowhere, repeating itself until its thrills run dry.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Adam Nayman

Toronto Star

Nov 11

2.5/4

Wright's grim, grayed-out backdrop feels ripped from King's pages, but the tone isn't quite right. The filmmaker's great gift is for pop uplift, and his buoyant sensibility is at odds with the heavy melancholy of King's tale.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Calum Cooper

Cinerama Film

Nov 11

4/5

A rare remake that's superior to its predecessor, the film excites, surprises, and entertains, with Powell's adrenaline-charged performance and the weight of the sociopolitical themes leaving you on the edge of your seat.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Scott Mendelson

The Outside Scoop (Substack)

Nov 11

5/10

The faithful-to-a-fault adaptation of Stephen King's novel trades 'American Gladiators' for 'Most Dangerous Game,' but now feels quaint in an America that was stupid enough to elect *its* favorite psychopathic game show host as President... twice.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Travis Hopson

Punch Drunk Critics

Nov 11

3/5

While its frantic energy and balls-to-the-wall performance by Glen Powell are entertaining as Hell, it doesn't feel like it will hold the same long-lasting appeal as its predecessor.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Andrew Wyatt

AW

The Take-Up

Nov 11

Perhaps there's just no squaring the circle of an Edgar Wright-helmed The Running Man film. The director is attuned to the grotesque absurdities of the future world that King imagined, but he doesn't have the acidic instincts of a Carpenter or Verhoeven.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Jonathan Sim

JS

ComingSoon.net 

Nov 11

 7/10

Powell is fun to watch in this high-octane action thriller that's directed with just enough energy for the action movie fan to eat up and enjoy.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Clint Cage

CC

IGN Movies 

Nov 11

 7/10

It's a movie that lives up to its heritage but gets a little tonally caught between the book and its first, more Arnold-y adaptation, and does a few different things pretty well instead of doing one thing really well.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Kenneth R. Morefield** 

1More Film Blog

Nov 11

 1.5/4

We can't ever be more than five minutes of screen time removed from a chase or a fight or an explosion.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Joe George** 

Den of Geek

Nov 11

 4/5

The meaning of those final moments make the difference between *The Running Man* being a fun but dumb exercise in blockbuster filmmaking or a true nightmare of totalitarian media control.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Kristy Puchko

Mashable

Nov 11



The Running Man is a sloppy collage of violence, action, and cheap jokes that is far more style than substance.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Ryan Britt

Inverse

Nov 11



Thankfully, Powell's charm is part of what carries things through, but there's something else *The Running Man* has going for it: a simple, yet horrifying premise, executed with precision, and just enough outrageous twists to keep you guessing.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Tina Kakadelis

Beyond the Cinerama Dome

Nov 11



The Running Man may have felt ahead of its time when King wrote it, blending America's obsession with violence and the beginnings of reality television, but in the United States of 2025 it's running a little behind.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Dominic Griffin

Looper.com

Nov 11



7.5/10

In many ways, "*The Running Man*" feels like the win Wright and the audience both needed, but the shortcuts it takes to please the crowd hold it back from genuine greatness.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Kelechi Ehenulo**

Movie Marker

Nov 11

3/5

Whilst a faithful adaptation nevertheless, Edgar Wright's reimagining is solid enough as an entertaining spectacle, but not memorable enough to live long after the credits roll.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Alex Harrison**

Screen Rant

Nov 11

7/10

The director is a consummate entertainer, as is Glen Powell, the ascendant movie star playing protagonist Ben Richards, and they made this film as guilt-free as they possibly could.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Grace Randolph**

Beyond the Trailer

Nov 11

Glen Powell does his best Tom Cruise impression yet & the first half of the movie is pretty good. But the second half drowns in messaging & lacks action, while the action it does have is poorly staged. Maybe action isn't Edgar Wright's genre after all...

[Go to Full Review](#)**Kristen Lopez**

The Film Maven

Nov 11

C-

There are fits and spurts of '80s action cheese but, for the most part, the script is wildly inconsistent in terms of tone while characters are wafer thin caricatures.

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Elliott Collins**

Movie Files

Nov 11

2/5

Suffers from a major identity crisis, leaving it feeling bipolar and unsure of its own purpose. It awkwardly attempts to blend 80s action tropes, complete with one-liners, with a desire for serious social commentary, yet succeeds at neither.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Manuel São Bento**

Movies We Texted About

Nov 11

C+

The Running Man falls short of the potential that Edgar Wright and the source material suggested, though it's an efficient vehicle for the talent and charisma of Glen Powell and presents themes that could and should be incisive.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Sean P. Means**

The Movie Cricket

Nov 11

3.5/4

There's a serious theme in here. ... But "The Running Man" is more comfortable, and more fun, when it just lets loose with the cinematic mayhem.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Alistair Ryder**

The Film Stage

Nov 11

The most spectacular sequences here are when [Edgar Wright] allows himself to let loose, working towards his instincts rather than against them.

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Brian Orndorf**

Blu-ray.com

Nov 11

C

While Wright's take means to thrill, it mostly feels leaden and timid, fearful of following King's grander ideas on ultimate revenge.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Laura Clifford**

Reeling Reviews

Nov 11

C+

As far as this year's adaptations of dystopian Stephen King stories go, a long walk proves more stimulating than a lengthy run.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Spencer Perry**

ComicBook.com

Nov 11

3/5

The Running Man is good, not great, a movie that is usually entertaining but one that starts to fall apart as the details are considered inside of it.

[Go to Full Review](#)**M.N. Miller**

InSession Film

Nov 11

A-

Wright has crafted a big studio remake that keeps a pulse on what is happening today, on our digital screens, and right before our eyes.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Eric Goldman**

Eric Goldman (YouTube)

Nov 11



I liked this new version of The Running Man though I wanted to love it because Edgar Wright directed it. You don't quite feel his presence as much as I'd like to.

[Go to Full Review](#)

George Simpson

GS

Daily Express (UK)

Nov 11



3/5

The set pieces are entertaining enough with Wright's signature whizzy direction, if not somewhat unbelievable for someone attempting to survive in such a life-and-death situation.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Jeremy Aspinall

JA

Radio Times

Nov 11



3/5

It's the type of allegory that Wright's director idol George A Romero (of Night of the Living Dead fame) would have applauded.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Owen Gleiberman**

Variety

Nov 11



Released in 1987, "The Running Man" was a lumbering Arnold Schwarzenegger movie. You could say that Edgar Wright, the director of the new version, has made it into a decent Bruce Willis movie.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Eddie Harrison**

film-authority.com

Nov 11



4/5

...old-school fights, chases and splattery mayhem to keep energy levels high; The Running Man is the best thing from Edgar Wright since his Shaun of the Dead and Hot Fuzz double-header....a propulsive, pumped-up and admirably straight-up action-spectacular...

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Allison Rose

FlickDirect

Nov 11

3/5

True to Stephen King's novel, The Running Man (2025) delivers grit and heart, but loses its pace long before the finish line.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Robbie Collin

Daily Telegraph (UK)

Nov 11

5/5

It's perhaps Wright's first feature to feel, in a positive way, like the work of a director for hire: every flourish and trick here isn't in service of a singular creative vision so much as a great, rumbling excitement machine.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Kevin Maher

The Times (UK)

Nov 11

1/5

Well, at least we'll always have the Cornetto trilogy.

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Stefan Pape

SP Common Sense Media

Nov 11

4/5

The film balances sharp socio-political satire about the current state of the world with thrilling, action-heavy entertainment—ironically delivering exactly what villain Killian craves: pure spectacle.

[Go to Full Review](#)**John Nugent**

JN

Empire Magazine 

Nov 11

 4/5

It's Wright's biggest, boldest canvas yet, and while it is less funny or flashily directed than his earlier fare, he doesn't miss a chance to rib American popular culture or the capitalist horrors it fostered, as King once did.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Yasmine Kandil** 

Discussing Film

Nov 11

 3.5/5

While its script can be rather thin at times, Edgar Wright's propulsive direction and an explosive cast led by Glen Powell still make *The Running Man* a fun trip to the movies.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Nikki Baughan** 

Screen International

Nov 11

*

This *Running Man* could have been a powerful anarchist fable for our turbulent times but fun as it is, it runs out of steam before making any lasting impact.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Germain Lussier**io9.com 

Nov 11



It's a joy to watch this cast, this story, and this craftsmanship, all from such a fantastic filmmaker. You just wish it came together in a way that fully lives up to that promise.

[Go to Full Review](#)

**Rachel Leishman**

The Mary Sue

Nov 11

5/5

The Running Man harkens back to the Harrison Ford days when you always knew you were in for a good time with one of his action movies. And I've missed this kind of action film.

[Go to Full Review](#)**David Ehrlich**

IndieWire

Nov 11

B

The result is a semi-satirical action-thriller that strains — with lots of sweat but considerable success — to find the same harmony between its conflicting modes that its characters hope to strike between their conflicting motivations.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Fred Topel**

United Press International

Nov 11

In subduing the caricature from the dystopian future, the remake loses what made The Running Man prescient and relevant.

[Go to Full Review](#)**Alonso Duralde**

The Film Verdict

Nov 11

For all the targets that director and co-writer Edgar Wright hits with the story's political and media satire, he allows the pacing to go slack, turning what should feel like an escalating set of stakes into an episodic series of vignettes.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Brian Truitt
BT USA Today ★
Nov 11

 3/4

A lively, satirical stab at modern-day reality TV, scary big-brother technology, cultural dissension and rampant income inequality, all slathered in blood-soaked ultraviolence and bonkers charm.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Peter Bradshaw ★
PB Guardian
Nov 11

 3/5

The Running Man sometimes feels retro-futurist and steampunky, though it is always watchable and buoyant. Wright has hit a confident stride.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Chris Evangelista** ✓
Slashfilm
Nov 11

 5/10

For a film constantly on the move, "The Running Man" feels like it never really gets started.

[Go to Full Review](#)

 **Jay Ledbetter**
AwardsWatch ✓
Nov 11

 C+

It's a testament to Edgar Wright that The Running Man feels like a little bit of a letdown, as it never bores and has ideas on its mind, which is more than most movies can say

[Go to Full Review](#)

Molly Edwards
ME Total Film ✓
Nov 11

 2/5

Ultimately, *The Running Man* is a run-of-the-mill action flick, which is bitterly disappointing for a film adapted from a Stephen King story, helmed by a skilled filmmaker like Edgar Wright, and starring one of cinema's most promising leading men.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Linda Marric

HeyUGuys

Nov 11

5/5

This is Wright's most accomplished Hollywood film to date and Glen Powell proves once again that he is Tom Cruise's rightful heir as cinema's new favourite action man.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Jarrod Jones

JJ

Paste Magazine

Nov 11

6.4/10

Wright's flair for freakazoids remains undeniable, but his focus on rebellion obscures the cruel machinery that incites it.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Damon Wise

DW

Deadline Hollywood Daily

Nov 11



Paul Verhoeven would have been a much better fit [to direct the original *The Running Man*], and with this impressively muscular reboot one senses that Edgar Wright thinks so too.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Casey Chong

CC

Casey's Movie Mania

Nov 11

3/5

Edgar Wright's most expensive movie to date is far from his best, despite Glen Powell excelling in his everyman action persona.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Tessa Smith

Mama's Geeky

Nov 11



This movie crawls when it should run. While it includes some great performances, it is too bloated, with the important and relevant message getting buried within.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Jake Cole

JC

Slant Magazine

Nov 11



2/4

In the second half, the film simplistically expands on the novel to bring Stephen King's prescient critiques more fully into line with signifiers of the Trump era.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Joey Magidson

Awards Radar

Nov 11



3/4

The Running Man is an entertaining and even more timely take on the Stephen King story, complete with a movie star turn from Glen Powell.

[Go to Full Review](#)



David Rooney

The Hollywood Reporter

Nov 11



Edgar Wright's update of the 1987 Arnold Schwarzenegger vehicle of the same name, while it has no shortage of action and adrenaline, ends up feeling hollow. It also fails to erase lingering doubts about Glen Powell's viability as a leading man.

[Go to Full Review](#)



David Fear

Rolling Stone

Nov 11



Most filmmakers would have diluted the grit and genuine sense of moral free-fall. Wright doubles the dosage. Every adrenaline rush comes with a chaser of low rage and simmering despair.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Aidan Kelley

AK

Collider

Nov 11



8/10

The Running Man may not have quite the same level of polish as his pristine filmography, but it's still an ambitious, topical, and relentlessly entertaining flick that absolutely deserves to be seen on the biggest screen possible.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Cameron Ritter

CR

Geek Vibes Nation

Nov 11



6.5/10

Overall, The Running Man is an entertaining, fun ride that doesn't quite reach its potential.

[Go to Full Review](#)



William Bibbiani

TheWrap

Nov 11



The fact that it's released by Paramount plays like a punchline, and it's unclear who's getting punished.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Nick Schager

The Daily Beast

Nov 11



Largely faithful but unwilling to pick a funny or nasty lane, it's the most impersonal film of its writer/director's career, and a revolutionary thriller that too often falls back on establishment conventions.

[Go to Full Review](#)

Giovanni Lago

GL

Next Best Picture

Nov 11



5/10

Wright's lack of panache this time around also doesn't alleviate the purely aesthetic fixations he has with King's novel, which translate to a surface-level reading of what's at the heart of the story.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Liz Shannon Miller

Consequence

Nov 11



B

The Running Man offers a more anarchic message than we might be used to from standard Hollywood blockbusters, but that message gets drowned out, leaving behind a loud violent romp that's almost a bit too on the nose for these loud violent times of ours.

[Go to Full Review](#)



David Gonzalez

The Cinematic Reel

Nov 11



3/5

Watching it through the lens of a blockbuster or piece of popcorn entertainment, The Running Man delivers enough energy, style, and star power to keep audiences engaged. Wright's direction and Glen Powell's undeniable charisma give the film a pulse.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Kate Sánchez

But Why Tho? A Geek Community

Nov 11

7/10

This take on The Running Man won't dethrone Arnold's film in the pop culture consciousness. Still, Glen Powell's dad action-winning streak continues even with a messy ending.

[Go to Full Review](#)



Blake Howard

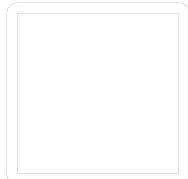
One Heat Minute

Nov 10

2/4

For its first hour, the film hums. Wright's camera dances through grime and shadow as Richards hides his face, barters for clothes, and dodges the surveillance grid. The supporting cast is a gallery of pleasures. In the final act, it gets too big.

[Go to Full Review](#)



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