



WHAT
MAKES
JOHN
WILSON
SO GOOD

by Alex Huls

WHAT IS JOHN WICK GOOD?

Who is “John Wick“?

John Wick is an American action thriller media franchise created by Derek Kolstad and owned by Summit Entertainment. Keanu Reeves plays John Wick, a retired hitman seeking vengeance for the killing of the dog given to him by his recently-deceased wife.

The franchise began with the release of John Wick in 2014 followed by two sequels, John Wick: Chapter 2 on February 10, 2017, and John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum on May 17, 2019. All three films were considered critical and commercial successes, accumulating a collective gross of more than \$587 million worldwide. A fourth installment, John Wick: Chapter 4, is in production and is due to be released on May 21, 2021.

JOHN WICK



Ahead of its sequel, let's review how John Wick became an instant action classic.

With Hollywood studios force-feeding audiences brand expansions mandated by nothing more than their own bottom line, it's understandable that we've gotten a little dubious of sequels. Responses to the news of a beloved film going franchise tend to range from cautious optimism at best to bafflement and rage at worst. It feels like just yesterday that cries of "Who could have asked for The Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature?!" echoed all across America, though it's possible that may have been just me.

It came as a refreshing change of pace, then, when the news that the 2014 Keanu Reeves action vehicle John Wick would get the sequel treatment broke to general rejoicing. Even now, with the much-touted John Wick 2 two days from wide release, the overall mood surrounding the sequel has remained upbeat and eager, bolstered by breathless tweets from early press screenings.



IT'S A SIMPLE STORY,
DONE REALLY WELL

John Wick's story is really basic. Keanu Reeves plays Wick, a retired hitman, whose wife dies and leaves him a present: an adorable puppy. When a couple of gangsters steal his car and kill his dog, he seeks revenge. That's it. You've seen this movie and this story before. But you haven't seen it done this well in a while. With action movies going so big now – spaceships, superheroes, apocalypses – it's a refreshing reminder that small, well done stories can be just as thrilling.

IT HAS GREAT ACTION

Duh. You can't be one of the best action movies in years without, you know, great action. John Wick has it in spades. Gunfights? Check. Fighting? Check. Fighting and guns at the same time with gun kung-fu? Big check. The action in John Wick is nothing short of badass. Brutal, pulse-pounding, and that perfect level of thrilling that makes you want to scream "That was awesome!" at the screen constantly.

IT ACTUALLY LETS
YOU SEE THE ACTION

Action movies these days are suffering from a terrible affliction. Filmmakers these days seem to be hell bent on shooting action as if the cameraman is constantly sneezing, and then editing everything so quickly that you not only can't see anything, you feel like you might go into epileptic shock. They seem to forget we watch action movies to actually see the action. John Wick does not forget this.