

GHOSTBUSTERS



With plans apparently advancing for an all female cast 'reboot' of *Ghostbusters* in 2015, BAFTA marks the 30th anniversary of the original *Ghostbusters* film with a screening of this classic comedy.

RELEASE YEAR: 1984
 RUNTIME: 105 mins
 DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Ivan Reitman
 SCREENWRITERS: Dan Ackroyd, Harold Ramis, Rick Moranis (uncredited)
 ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS: Michael C Gross, Joe Medjuck
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Bernie Brillstein

Released at the height of the Reagan era, *Ghostbusters* is a hilarious comedy fantasy spawned from its screenwriters' fascination with the paranormal. The film imagines a trio of unemployable parapsychology lecturers forced to become reluctant entrepreneurs after being fired from their university jobs.

Launching 'Ghostbusters', a business for the pest control of ghosts in New York City, the unlikely partners fully expect it to fail and are surprised when they're inundated with emergency calls. Unbeknownst to them, the source of these lucrative apparitions is an ancient demon, invoked by a madman to wreak havoc across the city.

Ghostbusters was devised by *Saturday Night Live* stalwarts **Dan Ackroyd** and **Harold Ramis**. Before writing and starring in *Ghostbusters*, Ackroyd had already enjoyed international success with cult film *The Blues Brothers* (1980), and as co-star of the high-concept movie *Trading Places* (1983). Ramis had written

two early breakthrough comedies for the young **Bill Murray** (*Caddyshack*, 1980 and *Stripes*, 1981) and *Ghostbusters* director/producer **Ivan Reitman** (*Stripes*, *Twins*, 1988 and *Kindergarten Cop*, 1990) liked the original concept so much, he encouraged a re-write to showcase more achievable special effects.

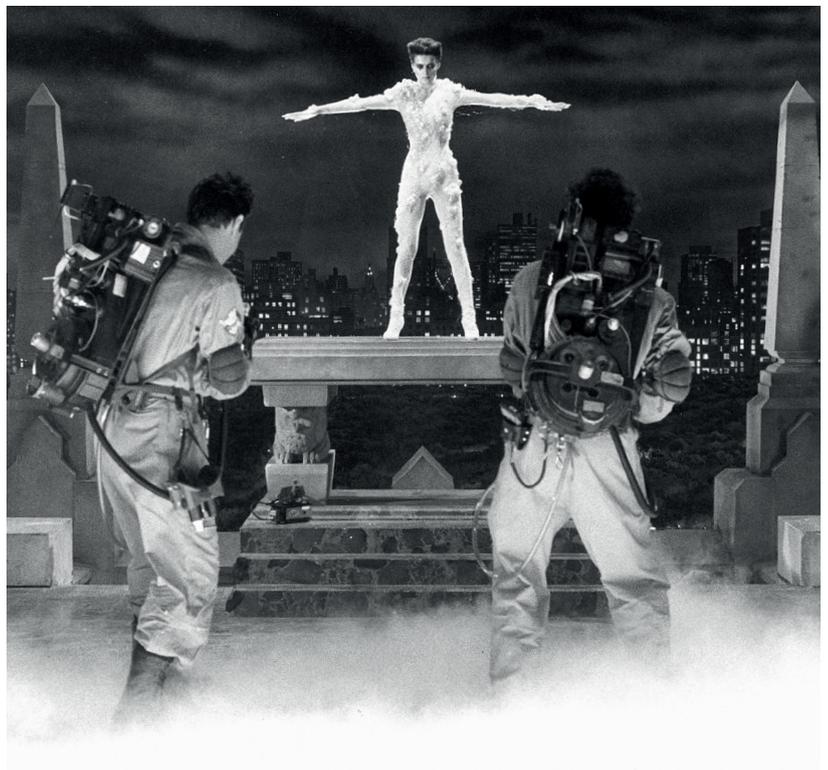
Sigourney Weaver, **Rick Moranis** and **Ernie Hudson** star alongside Ackroyd and Ramis but the film is surely stolen by a breakout performance by Murray, launching him into international stardom.

Along with the iconic jumpsuits, famously quotable lines, the funniest monster in movie history and groundbreaking special effects by Richard Edlund, *Ghostbusters* is also celebrated for its theme tune. This anthemic, decade-defining tune is sung by Ray Parker Jr – and legions of cinema audiences at every screening! Parker picked up a BAFTA win for Best Original Song, and the film was BAFTA-nominated for Best Special Visual Effects.



So you think you know *Ghostbusters*? Here are 10 Things You Might Not Know

- 1 Originally Ackroyd wrote *Ghostbusters* intending it to star his friends John Belushi and John Candy. The film was sadly re-cast when Belushi died and Candy dropped out of the project.
- 2 Although John Candy turned down a part in the film (eventually played by Rick Moranis) he does appear briefly in the music video of the theme song with Ray Parker Junior.
- 3 *Ghost Busters* was the working title of the 1946 Bowery Boys movie *Spook Busters*. Its plot also has some similarities, with the Bowery Boys having graduated from pest control school only to then have to set up in business as ghost exterminators. Eventually they also encounter the handiwork of a mad scientist.
- 4 Bill Murray ad-libs almost all his lines.
- 5 The famous green ghost Slimer (voiced by Ivan Reitman) is never referred to by name in the movie; he was actually named 'Onionhead' on set, because of a reference in a deleted scene. It was audiences who dubbed him 'Slimer', and he was duly renamed in *Ghostbusters II* (1989).
- 6 When a bookcase falls and almost hits Bill Murray in the film, he calmly turns to Ackroyd and asks if this has ever happened to him before. In fact, the bookcase fell over on set by accident and Murray invented the line on the spot.
- 7 The name of the ancient god Gozer was inspired by the story of a poltergeist that supposedly haunted a house in Enfield, North London, in the 1970s.
- 8 50 gallons of shaving foam were dumped on actor William Atherton to imitate the bursting of the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man.
- 9 The Ghostbusters' HQ is an actual working fire station in New York and still displays pictures of the cast and fire crew together.
- 10 Ray Parker Junior tried unsuccessfully for two days to come up with a theme song when at 4:30am he saw a TV advert for a drainage cleaning firm which featured the tagline 'Who You Gonna Call?' – he then wrote the whole song in an hour!



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