

Mongrel Media Presents

# the puffy chair

a duplass brothers movie



(2005, USA, 85 mins)

Distribution

**mongrel**  
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## **SYNOPSIS**

Josh has failed at being a NYC indie rocker. Josh has failed at being a booking agent. Josh's life is pretty much in the toilet. When he tries to figure out where it all went wrong he comes up with an idea that would be a small, yet life changing victory. He decides to purchase a 1985 Lazy Boy on EBay, just like the one from his childhood living room, and deliver it cross-country to his father as a surprise birthday gift. Things immediately get complicated when his girlfriend Emily wants to come, especially when she wants to have the “where we stand” in their relationship conversation. When his pseudo-granola brother, Rhett, begs to join them on their adventure it quickly becomes three very different people and a giant purple puffy chair in a too-small van and one of them has to go before the trip's end.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

When the Duplass Brothers were young dudes, they made many “films” in their hometown of New Orleans. There was “The Blob”, starring their blue bean bag, followed by “The Invisible Man Walking across the Den” and the epic saga about the robber versus the karate expert.

Jay (the elder) would film, and Mark (the younger) would act and lug the VCR, which was connected to Jay’s camera. These films premiered in the mid-80s in their parents’ living room to rave reviews. Later on, Jay and Mark moved to Austin and went to college. They studied film, grew sideburns, and talked about the French New Wave. While still in college (22 and 19 years old), they made a film. It was a bad film. This was a low moment for the Duplass Brothers.

In 1997, to remedy Jay’s depression, both brothers sold their cars and started an editing business with the money. They edited many of the indie films in Austin, learning much about what makes movies bad. However, they couldn’t seem to make a good movie themselves.

Then, one day in 2002, while moping about in their Austin apartment, Mark stood up and said, “We’re going to make a movie today.” They used what they had – a kitchen and a cheap digital camera. Jay shot it, and Mark acted. It was called “This is John,” and it’s about a guy who tries to perfect the personal greeting of his answering machine and fails. It came from personal experience for both brothers, and people seemed to really connect with this one. It played the 2003 Sundance Film Festival and earned them a representation deal with The William Morris Agency.

Next was the film “Scrabble,” also shot in a kitchen for a few dollars. It’s about the horrible things we do to the people we love over a board game (personal experience

again). It played Sundance in 2004 and won a few awards that year. “The Intervention” was their next film, which premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in February of 2005, winning the Silver Bear and the Teddy Award.

“The Puffy Chair” is the Duplass Brothers’ first feature. It premiered at Sundance 2005, was nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards, and was acquired for theatrical distribution by Roadside Attractions/Netflix in January of 2006.

## FILM FESTIVAL HISTORY

### **2005 Festivals played:**

- Sundance '05
- SXSW '05 (Audience Award)
- Atlanta Film Fest '05
- Nantucket '05
- Edinburgh Int'l, Aug 17 - 28
- Libertas, Croatia Aug 26 - 30
- Bend Film Fest, Oregon Sept 22 - 25 (Best Screenplay, Best Lead Actor)
- Sidewalk Film Fest, Birmingham Alabama Sept 22 - 25 (Grand Jury Prize)
- Port Townsend, Washington Sept 22 - 25
- Woodstock, NY Sept 28- Oct 2
- Chicago Int'l, Oct 6 - 12
- Tursak comedy fest (Turkey)
- Williamstown, MA Oct 30 - Nov 7
- Cardiff, Wales Nov 9 - 19 (Audience Award)
- Thessaloniki, Greece Nov 17 - 27

### **2006 Festivals played:**

- Goteberg, Sweden '06, Jan 27 – Feb 6
- Boulder Int'l, Feb 16 - 19
- Florida Int'l Film Festival, March 24 - April 2
- Independent Film Festival of Boston, April 19 - 24

**CAST**

Mark Duplass (Josh)  
Kathryn Aselton (Emily)  
Rhett Wilkins (Rhett)  
Julie Fischer (Amber)  
Bari Hyman (Motel Lady)  
Gerald Finnegan (Puffy Chair Salesman)

**DIRECTED BY**

Jay Duplass

**PRODUCED BY**

Mark Duplass

**WRITTEN BY**

Mark Duplass  
Jay Duplass

**EDITED BY**

Jay Deuby

**CO-PRODUCERS**

Kathryn Aselton  
Jen Tracy

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS**

Larry Duplass  
Cindy Duplass

**CAMERA**

Jay Duplass

**LIGHTING AND SOUND**

John Bryant

**RE-RECORDING MIXER**

Larry Blake  
Swelltone Labs