



Ooo, how shocking!

Brüno

*Starring Sacha Baron Cohen, Gustaf Hamnersten, cameos of stars
Directed by Larry Charles*

Rating: More about celebrity than homophobia, this of was a total of my , I and as I right on the floor and out the door!

First, you should know that this film is a of ! That's right, I said a large, smelly, flaming pile of . It is filled to the rafters with shocking scenes of and outrageous depictions of male . There are scenes where Brüno, played by Sacha Baron Cohen, and his -sized companion have graphic , with extravagant and power . They in every position imaginable. Don't you worry, the male and are blocked with a black box.

The film is about Brüno, a homosexual, who has an outlandish TV fashion show in Europe (that's so flagrantly). After being -canned for stumbling on to a fashion show runway while wearing an entire suit made out of Velcro, he decides that he can make -loads of money, and become hugely famous in the United States by himself out as a famous person.

He latches on the theory that to be a big star in America, you have to engage in outrageous stunts. And you know what? He's right! We Americans love to see slutty stars and their antics.



Sacha Baron Cohen as Brüno in Universal Pictures' *Brüno*. PHOTO © UNIVERSAL PICTURES 2009

That's what sells!

So, Brüno thinks that possessing a small black child will help his pathetic attempts to get attention. This kid arrives at the airport baggage carousel in a box. It was supposed to be some kind of impromptu scene with the other people standing around while waiting for their bags and watching in horror as Brüno retrieves his box, opens it and retrieves the boy for all the onlookers to see and have them with their shocked looks. I laughed my head off!

The film is akin to Cohen's previous film, *Borat*, where he takes on some kind of personality. Here he is a raving, flaming and then pushes the envelope interacting with idiots as they struggle to and react to Brüno and his shocking behavior and adult situations.

In *Borat*, these supposedly realistic scenes with real idiotic as they were exposed to outrageous stunts were funny as they seemed real and spontaneously . In *Brüno*, these same kind of scenes and situations seem forced and shoved our . I felt like I was being forced to watch a as it gets rammed up while being spun on a with five naked people engaging in

on the dining room table.

Sure, I laughed my at some of the scenes, especially the sequence of Brüno having in all sorts of positions and with all sorts of objects with his -sized lover. I also blew out my when Brüno tries to go straight and have with a swinging -neck couple. He is all while a large woman him around while he is in his as she tries to get him to her in all kinds of . As he is still clearly gay, he is freaked out and at her aggressive attempts to . Hilarious!

There are scenes showing Brüno's flapping around. And a scene where he and his assistant find themselves naked and locked together on a hotel bed after they had a night of with all kinds of chains and s&m paraphernalia and they seek help from the freaked out hotel management who find them and try to help them get unstuck. The supposedly real hotel staff are and kick them out of the hotel. There is also a scene where Brüno goes on a Jerry Springer-like show where the mostly African American audience goes into a about Brüno's and his desire to keep his little black boy. Like with Springer, the audience goes all on him.

He has an interview with Ron Paul

during the presidential campaign. When his crew fakes an equipment malfunction (the camera equipment, you perverts!), he and Mr. Paul retire to a separate room to chill. Brüno then proceeds to slowly get naked in front of Mr. Paul. The fact that Mr. Paul takes so long to and storm out shows how desperate he was to get attention from the press.

The scene where he uses construction workers refurbishing a house as human furniture to interview a Paula Abdul seemed so ridiculous as she sat her down on them and never even flinched and kept right on while he interviewed her. It just seem so staged. What a !

Oddly, with *Borat* this kind of stuff seemed outrageously funny, yet also believable. Here, *Brüno* is so obviously that it's hard to believe that real people would react in the way that they do. Also, with *Borat*, his character was in America to film his visit here for a TV show back in his home country. So, you believed that people would accept the camera in their faces to film their and shocked reactions. Here, since *Brüno* is so it seems that these people would be in on the joke.

And, with *Borat*, people were enticed and teased into exhibiting their opinions about Jews and racism. Here, the film seems more about that Brüno and less about inciting people's homophobia.

Over all, I thought this was an of and it didn't . I only laughed my off a couple of times. But I bet you will see this of anyway as you thirst for all things shocking and outrageous. Our society just can't get enough of this . I'll bet that even this review piqued your interest, you !

Doug Young is *The Statesman's* outstanding film critic. He works for Sen. Mark Udall. In 2008, he won first prize for humorous writing in the Colorado Press Association's annual contest, where he received a 100 percent score for his film reviews.