SOFTWARE & TECH

How To Eat Fried Worms Cast

Published: November 20, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction: Remembering the Wacky World of Billy and His Worms

If you grew up in the 1970s, you might remember laughing your way through Thomas Rockwell's classic children's novel, **How to Eat Fried Worms**. Fast forward to 2006, and a new generation got to experience the same hilarious, stomach-churning adventure on the big screen. The **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** brought this beloved story to life with a fresh, fun, and slightly gross twist that delighted kids and families everywhere. But what exactly makes this film so memorable? Is it the outrageous premise, the relatable characters, or the surprisingly heartfelt messages hidden beneath all those wriggling, crispy worms? In this comprehensive article, we will take a deep dive into the world of the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie**, exploring its plot, characters, behind-the-scenes magic, and the enduring appeal that keeps viewers coming back for seconds. Whether you are a long-time fan or a curious newcomer, get ready to explore everything there is to know about this unique cinematic gem.

The Story That Started It All: From Book to Big Screen

The **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** is based on the wildly popular 1973 novel by Thomas Rockwell. The book itself was a staple of elementary school reading lists, known for its disgusting yet delightful premise. The story centers on a young boy named Billy who, in a classic bet, must eat fifteen worms in fifteen days. The film adaptation stays true to this core idea while updating the setting and adding modern elements to appeal to a contemporary audience.

Directed by Bob Dolman, the movie was released by New Line Cinema in 2006. It captures the spirit of the book perfectly: the tension between childhood dares, the importance of friendship, and the sheer absurdity of the central challenge. The screenplay expands on the original characters and introduces new ones, making the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** feel fresh while still honoring its source material. The transition from page to screen was handled with care, ensuring that the book's heart and humor remained intact.

Plot Summary: A Bet That Turns Into a Culinary Nightmare

In the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie**, we meet Billy Forrester (played by Luke Benward), a likable and somewhat shy kid who has just moved to a new town. As the new kid in school, he quickly becomes a target for the local bully, Joe Guire (Adam Hicks). Joe, along with his gang of friends, constantly teases and harasses Billy. After a particularly tense encounter, a bet is proposed: Billy must eat ten worms (fifteen in the book) in ten days. If he succeeds, Joe and his friends have to leave him alone forever. If he fails, Billy becomes their servant.

What follows is a hilarious and often disgusting journey as Billy devises increasingly creative ways to make the worms palatable. He tries them fried, baked, boiled, and even blended into smoothies. The **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** takes viewers through each culinary experiment with equal parts humor and horror. Billy's friends, including the loyal and inventive Adam (Alexander Gould) and the quirky Bradley (Austin Majors), rally around him to help find the best recipes. Meanwhile, Joe and his gang work just as hard to sabotage Billy's efforts, adding giant, slimy earthworms to his plate or trying to pass off a rubber worm as a real one.

The film balances the gross-out comedy with genuine moments of friendship and bravery. Billy learns that the real

challenge isn't the worms themselves, but standing up for himself and finding his place in a new environment. The climactic scene, where Billy must consume the final worm in front of the entire school, is both tense and triumphant.

Main Characters: The Faces Behind the Worm-Eating Frenzy

Billy Forrester (Luke Benward)

Luke Benward delivers a charming and relatable performance as Billy. He perfectly captures the character's vulnerability and determination. Watching him grow from a nervous new kid to a confident hero is one of the highlights of the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie**. Benward's comedic timing is excellent, especially during the worm-eating scenes where he has to react with a mix of disgust and resolve.

Joe Guire (Adam Hicks)

Adam Hicks plays the bully Joe with just the right amount of menace and humor. Joe is not a one-dimensional villain; he has his own insecurities and reasons for acting out. The **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** gives Joe a backstory that explains his behavior, making him a more complex character than in the book. Hicks brings a charismatic energy to the role, making Joe someone you love to hate.

Adam (Alexander Gould) and Bradley (Austin Majors)

Billy's best friends are a great support system. Adam is the brains of the operation, always coming up with new worm recipes and strategies. Bradley is the comic relief, often panicking but always loyal. Together, they form a trio that viewers can root for. The friendship dynamics in the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** are genuinely heartwarming, adding emotional depth to the silly premise.

Supporting Characters

The film also features strong performances from adult actors like David Krumholtz as Mr. Forrester, Billy's supportive father who tries to understand his son's bizarre predicament. Kimberly Williams-Paisley plays Billy's mother, adding a touch of warmth and wisdom. The parents in the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** are portrayed as caring and involved, a nice change from many child-centered films where adults are absent or clueless.

Themes and Life Lessons: More Than Just Gross-Out Humor

While the premise might seem purely ridiculous, the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** is rich with valuable themes. At its core, the film is about courage and resilience. Billy faces a truly disgusting challenge, but he doesn't give up. He learns that perseverance pays off, even when the task feels impossible.

Another major theme is friendship. Billy's friends stick by him through thick and thin, literally helping him swallow some tough situations. The **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** highlights the importance of having a support system and being a good friend in return. The film also touches on bullying and standing up for oneself. Billy learns that sometimes you have to face your fears head-on, and that true strength comes from within.

There is also a subtle message about trying new things and being open-minded. The worm recipes in the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** are absurd, but they also symbolise the idea that you never know what you might like until you try it. This is a great lesson for kids about being adventurous and not judging things too quickly.

Behind the Scenes: How They Made the Worms Look So Real

One of the biggest questions fans have about the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** is how the worms were created. The answer is a combination of practical effects, animatronics, and some very dedicated prop masters. The

filmmakers used a variety of techniques to make the worms look and move realistically on screen.

For close-up shots of worms being eaten, the prop department created edible worms made from fruit leather, gelatin, and other food-safe materials. These "worms" were designed to look slimy and wriggly while being safe for the young actors to eat. Luke Benward, who played Billy, had to eat dozens of these fake worms during filming. In interviews, he has mentioned that some of the worm recipes actually tasted pretty good, while others were truly disgusting.

The live worms used in the film were mostly thick red wrigglers, purchased from bait shops. Special effects artists used air tubes and hidden mechanisms to make the worms appear to move and squirm on the plate. The **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** also used CGI in a few scenes to enhance the worm's movements, but the majority of the effects were practical. This hands-on approach gives the film a tactile, real-world feel that adds to the gross-out factor.

Comparing the Movie to the Book: What Changed?

Fans of the original novel will notice several differences in the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie**. The most obvious change is the setting. The book takes place in a more generic, timeless suburbia, while the film updates the story to the mid-2000s with modern clothing, music, and technology. The bet itself is also slightly different: in the book, Billy bets that he can eat fifteen worms in fifteen days; in the movie, it's ten worms in ten days. This change was likely made to keep the story moving at a good pace for a feature film.

The characters are also expanded in the movie. The book has a large cast of minor characters, while the film focuses on a smaller core group. Joe the bully is given a more fleshed-out personality and even a sympathetic moment or two. The **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** also adds a subplot about Billy's father helping him with the challenge, which is not in the book. While purists might prefer the novel's simplicity, the film's changes help create a more complete and satisfying narrative for a modern audience.

Despite these changes, the heart of the story remains the same. The **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** captures the spirit of the book: the daring, the friendship, and the hilarious grossness. It is a faithful adaptation in terms of tone and theme, even if the details have been tweaked.

Reception and Legacy: How the Movie Was Received

Upon its release in 2006, the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** received mixed but generally positive reviews. Critics praised its wholesome humor and strong performances, especially from the young cast. Many noted that the film was surprisingly sweet and heartfelt underneath all the gross-out gags. The film holds a respectable score on review aggregators and has gained a loyal following over the years.

Audiences, particularly families and kids, embraced the movie. It became a popular rental and cable TV staple. The **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** is often remembered fondly by those who grew up in the mid-2000s as a fun, nostalgic film. Its legacy is that of a family comedy that doesn't talk down to its audience. It treats the crazy premise with sincerity, which makes it even funnier.

The film also helped launch the careers of its young actors. Luke Benward went on to appear in other well-known films and TV shows. Adam Hicks also built a successful acting career. The **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** remains a bright spot in their early filmographies.

Where to Watch the Movie Today

If you are feeling nostalgic or curious about the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie**, you can find it on several streaming platforms. It is available for digital purchase or rental on services like Amazon Prime Video, iTunes, Google Play, and YouTube Movies. Occasionally, it can be found streaming on platforms like Disney+ or Netflix, depending on the current licensing agreements. It is also available on DVD if you prefer physical media. The **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie** has remained in circulation, making it easy for new generations to discover and enjoy.

Fun Facts You Might Not Know

Here are some interesting tidbits about the **How to Eat Fried Worms Movie**:

- The filmmakers used over 50 different recipes for the worms, including "worm loaf" and "worm jerky".
- Luke Benward hated eating the edible fruit leather worms, even though they were made to taste like candy.
- The movie was filmed in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which gave the setting a warm, sunny feel.
- Author Thomas Rockwell made a cameo appearance in the film as the announcer at the school worm race.
- The famous "worm race" scene was not in the original book but was added to the movie for extra entertainment value.
- Adam Hicks, who played Joe, actually helped make some of the fake worms on set as a fun behind-the-scenes activity.

Why the How to Eat Fried Worms Movie Still Matters

In a world full of high-budget superhero movies and complex animated films

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