

The Last Producer 2000, Movie, R, 89 mins

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The Last Producer: Review



★★★★

This *PLAYER* (1992) meets *Death of a Salesman* insider's look at Hollywood is too filled with melancholy and desperate to charm. Burt Reynolds (who also directed) is Sonny Wexler, an aging film producer who's still in love with the pitch, but down on his luck. His one chance: a script he's optioned from an unknown writer is gaining heat. Trouble is, the option is about to expire. Burt Reynolds, sporting his *BOOGIE NIGHTS* (1997) hairpiece, tries to raise \$50,000 to renew his option so he can sell the script for a million dollars later on. He's deterred by the evil Damon Black (Benjamin

Bratt), a much younger studio boss who wants that script and doesn't care how he gets it. Wexler teams up with a ragtag group to raise the cash: his son-in-law Bo Pomerants (Sean Astin from "Ally McBeal"), addled tough guy Sherri Ganse (Rod Steiger), an Armenian loan shark (Robert Costanzo) and his sexy girlfriend (Lauren Holly). The soundtrack, a film noir horn sequence on endless loop, is distracting and pretty awful. But look for lots of cameos from '60s and '70s Hollywood: Robert Goulet, Angie Dickinson, Erin Gray, James Farentino, and Shecky Greene(!) among them. Charles Durning plays former studio bigwig Syd Wolf, and Ann-Margret is Wexler's drug-addled wife. Only Dom de Luise (or any other *SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT* cast members) were left out of this visit with Burt Reynolds' friends from yesteryear. ▶ [leave a comment](#) —*Meakin Armstrong*

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