

“Dave”

Dave Kovic is the owner of a temp agency whose life takes an unexpected turn when secret service agents discover he is a dead ringer for President Bill Mitchell. Offered a job as a presidential double he cannot say no to such a patriotic duty. It is a great gig until one fateful night when President Mitchell becomes disabled. That should have ended Dave’s new career but, for reasons known only to the Presidents’ conniving Chief of Staff, Bob Alexander (Frank Langella) and his assistant Alan Reed (Kevin Dunn), the world is to be kept in the dark during the President’s “recovery”. So Dave becomes “The President” in a complicated political chess game masterminded by Alexander.

“Dave” is an engaging off- beat comedy whose virtues include:

A uniformly excellent cast but with a special shout out to Frank Langella. As a man who makes Dick Chaney look cuddly, and with the ethical compass of a Mafia Don, he is the man you love to hate.

How President Mitchell’s wife Ellen (Sigourney Weaver) first trips to the fact that Dave is not her estranged husband. It happens in the Presidential limo.

Alexander and Reed prepping Dave for his first Cabinet meeting. They leave nothing to chance and only later will they discover how well Dave has absorbed their instructions.

Dave’s visit to a homeless shelter for children and how his conversation with a lonely young boy leads to his new found interest in the Federal Budget.

The cameos strung throughout the film of political leaders and journalists of the time (1993) along with such luminaries as Jay Leno, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Larry King and Oliver Stone.

The elaborate plan Alexander has come up with to insure that Vice President (Ben Kingsley) never occupies the Oval Office and the creative way Dave, Ellen and the ever stoic Secret Service Agent Duane Stevenson (Ving Rhames) undermine his plot.

Part “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington” and part “Being There”, “Dave is a highly entertaining political comedy.

(Amazon Prime)