

## Last among sequels

**A** musical sequel to "Hamlet?" That's the goofy premise of the Steve Coogan comedy "Hamlet 2," opening Friday. But as Hollywood has proven again and again (and again and again), any idea for a sequel, no matter how ridiculous, can get made if it has a pre-sold concept with big-name recognition.

Here are some of the dumbest sequels ever made — probably by people who think a serious sequel to "Hamlet" is a good idea.

### FREDDY VS. JASON (2003)

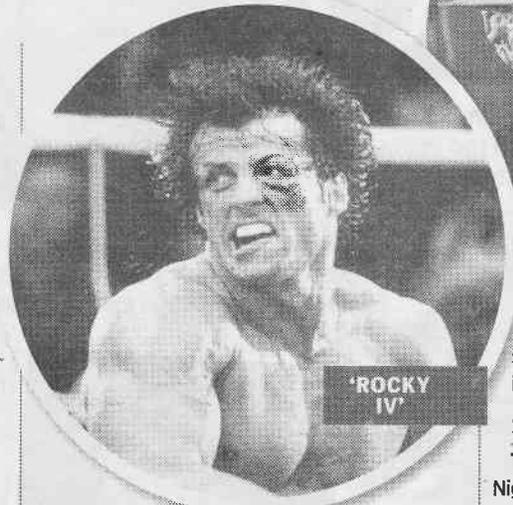
**The concept:** Doesn't the title sound like one of those stupid arguments kids would have about who would win in a fight, like, say, Iron Man vs. the Hulk or Spider-Man vs. Wolverine?

**The verdict:** Apparently, fans love stupid arguments. It grossed \$82 million, about the same as the last five movies in the "Friday the 13th" franchise combined. Yep, another Jason pic is in the works.

### JAWS: THE REVENGE (1987)

**The concept:** Freaked out by that persistent Great White, Ellen Brody (Lorraine Gary) decides to leave Amity and vacation in ... the desert? The mountains? Nope, the Bahamas! The shark follows.

**The verdict:** "Jaws 3-D" was probably the nail in the coffin. This fourth "Jaws" flick just sent it to Davy Jones' locker. It's also



'ROCKY IV'

notorious for keeping Michael Caine on the set and away from the Academy Awards the year he won for "Hannah and Her Sisters."

### HAVANA NIGHTS: DIRTY DANCING 2 (2004)

**The concept:** Make a flick about kids dancing and romancing during the Cuban revolution. It's got absolutely nothing to do with the original "Dirty Dancing," but maybe if we use the name, people will come anyway.

**The verdict:** The only person fooled was actor Diego Luna, who made this turkey his high-profile followup to the critical smash "Y Tu



'FREDDY VS. JASON'

Mama Tambien." In contrast, his "Mama" co-star, Gael Garcia Bernal, played Che Guevara in "The Motorcycle Diaries."

### STAYING ALIVE (1983)

**The concept:** The gritty, realistic "Saturday Night Fever" leads to Tony Manero becoming a chorus boy in a Broadway musical called "Satan's Alley"? Directed by Sylvester Stallone?

**The verdict:** "Alive" made \$63 million and was one of the year's biggest hits. And every single person who saw it absolutely hated it. Including, we assume, John Travolta, who wouldn't regain his cool until 1994's "Pulp Fiction."

### ROCKY IV (1985)

**The concept:** Rocky will win the Cold War by going to the U.S.S.R. and battling Drago (Dolph Lundgren), the evil Soviet boxer who shoots steroids. A nice speech wondering why we can't all just get along should be the perfect capper.



'STAYING ALIVE'

**The verdict:** Reagan-era fans lapped it up — this remains the top-grossing "Rocky" movie ever.

### BOOK OF SHADOWS: BLAIR WITCH 2 (2000)

**The concept:** Didn't everyone die in "The Blair Witch Project"? So what! Let's make a sequel about fans of that movie visiting the locations where it was shot and getting possessed by demons, or the Blair Witch, or a desire for a sequel that will make them go crazy!

**The verdict:** It made money, but no one was happy. On the DVD, director Joe Berlinger (who previously made acclaimed documentaries like "Paradise Lost") dissed his own film and criticized the changes made by the studio.

Michael Giltz