

BMW 02 series at the movies

Hollywood can keep their Porches and their Mercedes. When it comes to quality driving on the big screen, the BMW 02 series is where you go. Far from appearing those "blink and you'll miss it" scenes, the 02 series features quite prominently in some classic movies. The downside is that they tend to get wrecked on screen quite a bit. Let's hope that those Hollywood producers have decent insurance, as for some of these cars there's not much chance anyone will be driving them again.

Hancock (2008)

If you don't like to see classic BMW cars being bashed around, then you may want to shield your eyes when watching Hancock. Hancock's manager Ray (Jason Bateman) drives a 1974 blue 2002 that gets caught in traffic, smack in the middle of a railroad crossing. As he frantically tries to get clear of the path of an oncoming freight train, he hits the front and rear bumpers into nearby cars and tears off the driver's inside door handle. Just as the train is about to hit him, Hancock (Will Smith) flies in and flips the BMW out of the way, causing the BMW to land on top of another car. Hancock carries the 2002 back to Ray's home, but it ends up in a pretty sorry state.

French Connection II (1975)

The sequel to the popular crime drama offers us a 1500 model from 1968, so we more or less see one of the 02 series in its natural habitat. This one fares a little better than the BMW featured in Hancock, but not by much. There's a scene where Jimmy 'Popeye' Doyle (Gene Hackman) is running down the street amidst the rush hour traffic and he runs across a busy crossroads, into the path of a blue 1500. The car swerves to avoid him but instead gets hit and spun around by a white Citroen. It seems that Hollywood has a thing for damaging 02 series BMWs on the big screen.

Backdraft (1991)

Finally, a movie that pays the 02 series some respect! Even though fire engines are given the bulk of the limelight, this maroon 2002 from 1971 is driven by fire fighter Brian (William Baldwin). During one scene he can't get the BMW to start, which causes him to be late to his first day on the job. Aside from that one hiccup the 2002 seems to be in pretty good shape, which is a relief.

Multiplicity (1996)

Here we've got another 2002 model from 1974, only not as stylish looking as the one in Hancock. This slightly battered red number belongs to the main character Doug (Michael Keaton). There is a happy ending for this 2002, as Doug's three clones (also Michael Keaton) take the BMW on a road trip to Florida to open up a pizza business. It looks a bit ragged to begin with, but at least it makes it through the film in once piece.

All I Want (2002)

This is a little known movie starring Elijah Wood, but it's a pretty good film to get a good look at another 1974 2002. This one, however, gets far worse treatment than any of the other movies. As well as breaking down and continuously being kicked by characters, at one point this 02 model swerves to avoid hitting a deer, flips on an embankment and lands on its roof. 'Write-off' doesn't even begin to describe it. It eventually gets repaired, but later we see the car standing on bricks while vandals make off with the wheels and smash the windscreen with a baseball bat. Those BMW enthusiasts of a sensitive disposition might want to look away during that scene.

This guest post was written free of charge by Jamie Gibbs, the resident blogger for BMW car insurance comparison site, Confused.com.