

Movie Review

with Tim Chong

Extreme Prejudice

starring Nick Nolte

"The only thing worse than a politician is a child molester."

So says Sheriff Hank Pearson, played by Rip Torn in "Extreme Prejudice." It's the only quotable line in the movie. Take my word for it.

The rest of the movie is predictable, overly violent and insulting for people with I.Q.'s above 12.

Texas Ranger Jack Benteen, played by Nick Nolte, is a tough guy in a tough town. His old buddy Cash Bailey, played by Powers Boothe, has gone rotten on the apple at the bottom of the barrel. Cash is polluting the town with drugs.

While Jack is trying to catch Cash, a super-secret, hush-hush, ultra-elite government hit squad normally used to working in foreign lands comes into town. Soon, they're on the trail of Cash as well, using different tactics than Jack.

In the meantime, Jack's girlfriend, Sarita, played by Maria Conchita Alonso, who also went out with Cash a long time ago, is feeling restless. Cash starts pursuing his old flame.

Three plotlines, each one that might have made a semi-decent movie. Put them all together and you get mush.

Nolte acts like a zombie. He shows two emotions: anger and aggravation. The man can act. I've seen him do it before, like in "48 Hours" and "Down and Out in Beverly Hills." You'd never believe he could act from watching him here.

On the other end of the scale we have Boothe, who overacts with a vengeance. His character is supposed to be vicious, mean and cruel. His performance is hilarious, his eyes bulging with every line.

Poor Alonso is trapped in the middle with a character that's paper thin. Okay, she loves Jack but she's frustrated. Would a lady who's obviously intelligent and independent run off with a guy who, along with being a dope dealer, also threw her over years ago? Stupid.

The best performance came from Torn as Jack's sheriff buddy, who unfortunately gets blown away too early in the movie.



Nick Nolte and Maria Conchita Alonso cling to each other, but it's no use; they're trapped in "Extreme Prejudice," the new movie from director Walter Hill.

As far as the hit squad goes, they act like they wandered in off the set of "The A-Team." None of them questions his orders until it's too late.

If the filmmakers had thought a minute, they could have separated the plotlines and had enough stories for three movies. On one hand is the Texas Ranger, armed only with common sense and a sawed-off shotgun, against uzi-armed soldiers. On the other hand is the story of two old friends, on opposite sides of the law, in a duel to the death. On the third hand is two buddies, on the opposite sides of the law again, fighting over a beautiful girl who's torn between them.

Combined, the three stories become boring. Avoid this movie with extreme prejudice.

Capsule Reviews

Capsule reviews of movies playing around town this week. Rating system: four stars: run, do not walk; three stars: walk very quickly; two stars: walk at a regular pace; one star: drag your feet; no stars: don't even bother to put your shoes on.

"Raising Arizona" (PG-13) ★★★
starring Nicholas Cage

Hilarious, stylish, touching, action-packed, you name it, this movie is it. A childless couple kidnaps a baby, only to be pursued by the Biker of the Apocalypse. If I had more thumbs, I'd give it more than two thumbs up.

"Lethal Weapon" (R) ★★★
starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover

Gibson and Glover form the best screen couple since E.T. and Elliot in this non-stop action movie that only stops to explore the characters.

"Crocodile Dundee" (PG-13) ★★★
starring Paul Hogan

Everybody loves this fish out of the outback story, so who am I to disagree? Lightweight, but more entertaining than a joyride on a kangaroo, right mate?

"Platoon" (R) ★★★★★
starring Charlie Sheen, Willem Dafoe and Tom Berenger

They didn't give this movie the best picture Oscar for nothing. Everything you did and didn't want to know about what happened in Vietnam is presented in powerful and unforgettable images and incredible performances from Dafoe and Berenger.

"Blind Date" (PG-13) ★★★
starring Bruce Willis and Kim Basinger

If "Moonlighting" ever goes into eternal reruns, Bruce has a big future ahead of him in movies, and this movie shows why. Funny performances, especially from "Night Court"'s John Larroquette as a psychotic ex-boyfriend.

"The Secret of My Success" (PG-13) ★★★
starring Michael J. Fox

Fox climbs the company ladder in record time in this unbelievable but entertaining comedy. The movie can't make up its mind to be a romantic or a business comedy, but it's good fun anyway.

Video Clips

And now a few words from our resident video critics, Lorenzo Sierra Jr. and Freddy Flores...

Alright, video fiends, we've been a little busy. But now we're back in full force, so be prepared! We now hand down this week's verdicts:

Robbie Neville
"Dominos"

Lorenzo: It's good to see some "new waver" with any glimpse of talent. This video and song are impressive. Robbie needs a new hairdo, though.

Freddy: I don't particularly care for the tune (not at all, actually), but this does look good. Robbie, find some better looking back-up singers!

Bryan Adams
"Heat of the Night"

Lorenzo: I'm getting tired of all the black and white vids. But I've got to hand it to Adams, there are some cool effects. Pretty rockin' tune.

Freddy: The effects were much better the first time I saw them. Zero creativity involved in this one. It was pretty fun trying to name all of the videos that these effects have been in previously.

Huey Lewis and the News
"Jacob's Ladder"

Lorenzo: I thought Huey was excellent a few years ago. Now he's just super. This song is quality all the way! That guitar player is hot.

Freddy: A well-shot live clip, but nothing much happens. I like his other videos much better.

The Bangles
"Walkin' Down Your Street"

Lorenzo: First off, Susannah Hoffs is the finest babe on the planet. If it weren't for her, I'd turn this cheesy video off. I did, however, like the Egyptian song.

Freddy: This band really sings about stupid things. Sure, they look nice, but they don't impress me at all (music-wise). They should try to do something semi-intelligent for a change.

Paul Simon
"You Can Call Me Al"

Lorenzo: I didn't think this album would take off as well as it has. Having Chevy in this video adds a real touch of class. Not only is Paul making a great musical statement, but he's getting into politics as well.

Freddy: I like Chevy much better than Paul in this. This clip has a unique concept behind it. I guess I do like it.

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