



All fired up for action are Martin Lawrence as Officer Marcus Burnett and Will Smith as Officer Mike Lowrey in Columbia Pictures new release "Bad Boys."

Lawrence and Smith are 'Bad Boys'

by Lori Anna Dyer
Entertainment Editor

Action, adventure, good looking guys, a girl in distress, and laughs? Well, yes, laughs. That's what you get in the new action-film from Columbia Pictures' "Bad Boys" starring Martin Lawrence and Will Smith. Lawrence and Smith play two Miami Police officers in the narcotics division, who's biggest bust of heroin gets stolen from (where?) police headquarters.

The action starts when they have to find the dope before the Internal Affairs division, whose captain (Marg Helgenberger) is convinced it is an inside job, shuts down the department.

The two get nowhere until a

friend of Mike Lowrey's (Smith) is gunned down. While she is looking at the stolen dope, her best friend, Julie (Tea Leone) gets away by jumping into the pool.

The plot twist is that she will only talk to Mike, but he is not in when she calls. So the captain (Joe Pantoliano) makes Marcus Burnette (Lawrence) take the call and pretend to be Mike.

Julie is finally convinced, but Mike has no clue this has happened. Mike is not very happy with the entire situation and Marcus makes matters worse by lying to his wife about it.

The movie is a mixed breed. On one hand it has the same violent elements of "Die Hard,"

"Passenger 57" and even "Demolition Man."

On the other hand, Smith and Lawrence are both light on their feet with comic timing.

While the bullets were flying left and right, I was laughing in my seat.

Smith and Lawrence are brilliant together as partners. "Bad Boys" is a far cry from NBC's "Fresh Prince" and Fox's "Martin." These two have a definite future in action films.

I would give this film three thumbs up, if I had them to give. If you like action, with a twist of comedy, then I suggest taking in a cocktail named "Bad Boys."

"Bad Boys" is currently showing at The Plaza Theaters on Pittsburgh and 8th streets.

Lange and Berre battle for 'Isaiah'

by Karen Steele
Collegian Staff

Based on the novel by Seth Margolis, "Losing Isaiah" is a tear-jerking film about radical issues and adoption.

Jessica Lange stars as Margaret Lewin, an inner-city social worker with a great big heart. Margaret and her husband (David Strathairn), who are white, decide to adopt Isaiah, an African-American baby.

Isaiah is a "crack baby" who spends days in the hospital fighting for his life after being left in a garbage pile by his mother, Khaila (Halle Berry). Margaret admires Isaiah's determination to live.

Isaiah is then portrayed throughout the movie as a three or four-year-old little boy, played by Marc John Jefferies. It is at this extremely impressionable age that Khaila starts to fight to

have him back. She has gone through rehabilitation programs, is clean, and wants a chance to be Isaiah's mother.

The acting in this film is extraordinary and really leads you to feel for all those involved--the adoptive parents, the biological mother, and especially Isaiah. The plot describes and unfortunate and all-too-common situation found in today's society. A child is adopted, grows up with a family that loves him, and then is taken back to the biological parents who are virtual strangers to the child.

What complicates matters more in "Losing Isaiah" is the issue of Isaiah having been adopted by a white family. The court needs to decide what is better for Isaiah--staying with the family he knows or being given to his biological mother so he won't be denied his heritage. It's a tough decision, and usually it's the child who loses in the worst way.

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