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'Red October' enthralls with old-fashioned thrills

NEW YORK (CNS) - An exciting, well-cast Cold War thriller, "The Hunt for Red October" (Paramount) will not disappoint fans of the genre nor aficionados of Tom Clancy's best-selling novel on which the movie is based.~

Set before "glasnost" and "perestroika," the film follows the secret mission of Marko Alexandrovich Ramius (Sean Connery), the maverick captain of a Soviet Typhoon nuclear submarine named Red October. Well-respected but disgusted by the recent invention of this virtually silent weapon of attack, Ramius plots to defect with several top crew members and destroy the sub along the Eastern seaboard of the United States.

To do this, the shrewd navigator must not only deflect the entire advancing Soviet fleet of subs whose captains know about his defection, but also divert key American subs that have been told by the Soviets that Red October is manned by a crazed captain



who's out to attack the United States.

Only one man, CIA analyst Jack Ryan (Alec Baldwin), has Ramius' plan figured out; and Ryan must convince the U.S. powers that be that Ramius needs aid, not annihilation.

As directed by John McTiernan ("Die Hard") and engagingly acted by Connery, Baldwin and several other notable actors. "The Hunt for Red October" will have audiences on the edge of their seats especially during its dramatic climax.

Connery is riveting as Ramius, a Russian submarine captain of the highest order. Connery creates a sense of mystery and evokes empathy as he remains the cool, calm commander of his secret sub while methodically orchestrating a complex defection plot.

Baldwin lightens the mood as the affable, fallible Jack Ryan, a brilliant scholar forced to push beyond physical limits to stop a potentially devastating U.S.-Soviet con-





Sean Connery stars as Captain Marko Alexandrovich Ramius in Paramount Pictures "The Hunt For Red October."

AP/Wide World Photos

flagration in the Atlantic. A fine actor who has been lost in dopey film roles ("Beetlejuice") but outstanding on television ("Knot's Landing," "Dress Gray"), Baldwin is on his way to the top with his portrayal of the sympathetic CIA hero, Ryan.

Sam Neill ("A Cry in the Dark") cuts a heroic figure here as Ramius' fellow defector, Captain Second Rank Vasily Borodin. Also outstanding is Richard Jordan as National Security Adviser Jeffrey Pelt, whose cocky scenes in Washington with his nemesis, Soviet Ambassador Andrei Lysenko (Joss Ackland), highlight the deceit that surrounds U.S.-Soviet relations and the hunt for the Red October.

McTiernan wisely allows the story and fascinating underwater production design - with much help from the U.S. Department of the Navy and visual effects by Lucasfilm's Industrial Light & Magic - to grip his audience's attention. Thus, unlike his equally suspenseful but gratuitously violent hit "Die Hard," "The Hunt for Red October" contains very little graphic violence and depends upon cerebral suspense and action thrills, And in contrast to this past summer's underwater dud, "The Abyss," the movie has no token females or sexual byplay to divert attention from the action at hand.

"The Hunt for Red October" is an oldfashioned political thriller that will enhance Clancy's literary reputation and secure some new recruits for the U.S. Navy.

Due to some intense menace and climactic violence, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II - adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG - parental guidance suggested.



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