pntertainment

Promising sequel outdoes predecessor with violence

NEW YORK (CNS) — A sequel that matches the action, drama and humor of the original, "Die Hard 2" (Twentieth Century Fox) outdoes its predecessor with an overdose of violence.

During a blinding Christmas blizzard, detective John McClane (Bruce Willis) becomes suspicious of two men with phony-looking gifts at Washington's Dulles airport, where his wife (Bonnie Bedelia) is about to arrive on an incoming flight.

Aware that the plane extraditing the notorious South American drug trafficker Esperanza (Franco Nero) is also approaching, McClane shadows the two and discovers they are part of an elite band of highly-trained terrorists who defected from the U.S. military.

From their nearby secret headquarters a former church now brimming with sophisticated technology and weaponry the terrorists sabotage the airport's communications system, throwing all incoming flights into jeopardy as leverage to bargain for Esperanza's release.

Spurned by airport security and the special Army unit that is eventually called in, McClane is forced to seek out the murderous mercenaries single-handedly, knowing his wife's jet is rapidly running out of fuel.

Renny Harlin's calculated direction keeps the audience fully involved and rooting for McClane as he pulls together maximum brawn and brains to stalk the cold-blooded killers. The movie is a rollercoaster of emotional extremes, but the welcome comic relief is outweighed by incredibly brutal scenes of bloodshed and sudden death.

The hero's self-deprecating sense of humor is still intact from the original movie, but this time when his pull-out-allthe-stops efforts to prevent a jumbo jet from crash-landing fails, the letdown is tremendous and the outcome horrific. Anyone who has lost a loved one in an airline tragedy would be well-advised to stay away.

The head terrorist (William Sadler), however, never rises above caricature, conveying icy menace as he practices deadly military stances in the nude before his mirror, and his choice of a church as command headquarters adds an ugly irony to his mission.

A few of the special effects are extraordinary — what is regrettable is that they are generally used to underscore violence against humans and the camera tends to linger on the bloodied remains.

Visually well-designed and aided by a superior sound track and taut editing, "Die Hard 2" is a scary and sobering look at the havoc terrorists can impose on innocent people, and the film doesn't hesitate to exploit that havoc as a source of entertainment.

Because of excessively graphic brutality and violence, much⁰ rough language and brief male nudity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.



As detective John McClane, Bruce Willis takes on terrorists who have seized an international airport in Twentieth Century Fox's "Die Hard 2," the sequel to the 1988 blockbuster. The film shows a scary and sobering look at the havoc terrorists can impose on innocent people.

Combining comedy, romance and suspense leaves film unfocused



The transition is painful when one minute your live-in girlfriend says she wants to marry you and the next minute all that's left of you is a "Ghost" (Paramount).

Young lovers Sam (Patrick Swayze) and Molly (Demi Moore) move into a loft with the help of their friend Carl (Tony Goldwyn) who, like Sam, is a New York City investment banker.

One night soon after, just as Molly finally admits she wants to marry Sam, a mugger confronts them and Sam is killed. His ghost remains, though, and discovers he was actually murdered and the killer will be coming back for Molly. Sam is desperate to protect her, but Molly can neither see nor hear him.

Enter Oda Mae (Whoopi Goldberg), a phony spiritualist who, to her own amazement, can hear Sam's voice. Badgered by Sam into cooperating, Oda Mae tries to warn Molly of the impending peril and nearly convinces her as, thanks to Sam's coaching, she knows extremely personal

things about Molly's love affair.

But the overly solicitous Carl and a wellintentioned cop dissuade Molly, forcing Sam to develop his supernatural powers so he can solve the mystery of his murder in time to save Molly from the same fate and bring the perpetrators to justice. Sta

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As directed by Jerry Zucker, fantasy, horror and romance all comically collide in this offbeat film spiked by Goldberg's feisty performance as the fake medium unable to rid herself of the pesky Sam.

Her Oda Mae provides comic relief to a dark story of betrayal based on the unsettling premise that dissatisfied ghosts are roaming all around us.

Much time is devoted to showing Sam and Molly's close relationship to establish the depth of her grief and the intensity of his need to save her. Moore effectively conveys her vulnerability and Swayze fans

Peter Sorel-Paramount Pictures Patrick Swayze (right) and Demi Moore star as Sam Wheat and Molly Jensen in the suspense-thriller "Ghost," a love story directed by Jerry Zucker. will empathize with his frustrating predicament. Goldwyn's edgy performance as Carl is also noteworthy. The film, however, needs a much tighter

focus. When the suspense should be building, scenes are unnecessarily drawn out, breaking the momentum. A helterskelter mix of languorous love scenes with sudden menace and comic asides only adds to the choppy effect.

But the special effects are first rate: Sam's power to pass through objects is shot with eerie expertise, especially in the bizarre setting of a speeding subway train inhabited by an enraged fellow ghost.

The depiction of bodies either being newly sprinkled with heavenly stardust or surrounded by black cloaked mini-devils for the voyage to the netherworld has a certain corny charm. In fact, so does the whole movie once you get beyond its scrambled hodgepodge of genres to the classy romantic thriller it set out to be.

Because of some grisly violence, acceptance of prémarital sex and occasional profanity, the USCC classification is A-III adults. The MPAA rating is PG-13 parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Catholic Courier

Clay's mouth, sexist attitudes turn movie into crude one-man show

NEW YORK (CNS) — Andrew Dice Clay gets to showcase his sewer mouth and well-known sexist attitudes as the star of "The Adventures of Ford Fairlane" (20th Century Fox).

The sneering, smoking Ford Fairlane, a private detective whose clients are rock musicians, has little time for his secretary and ex-lover (Lauren Holly) or his cases since scantily clad women are constantly throwing themselves at him.

A rock star's onstage murder draws Fairlane's attention when two different clients retain him to locate a dimwitted blonde (Maddie Corman) who was last seen in the rocker's final video. This draws him into the sleazy underbelly of L.A.'s late-night music scene, where a record company mogul (Wayne Newton) and his calculating ex-wife (Priscilla Presley) are deeply involved in blackmail, piracy and casual murder.

As directed by Renny Harlin, the film is

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Bob Isenberg-Twentieth Century Fox Comic Andrew Dice Clay is rock 'n' roll detective Ford Fairlane in Twentieth Century Fox's comic-thriller "The Adventures of Ford Fairlane." more like a crude one-man show whose nonsensical plot is practically dismissed in favor of glorifying Clay as the ultimate cool dude who can walk over any woman and blow away any man with impunity.

Supposedly a comic thriller, the film features Clay's relentlessly gross performance, which is neither thrilling nor funny. He swaggers from one violent, sexually perverse scene to the next spewing four-letter words.

The story falls apart, the characters are grotesque or one-dimensional, and Clay's parting shot in the climax is a pathetic putdown of the audience. He's a boor and the film's even more of a bore.

Due to constant rough language, excessive violence and numerous demeaning sexual situations, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.