

# Old jokes, characters ruin Police Academy II

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If they had a penalty for moving picture violations, Police Academy II would be among the first offenders. The film, which is little more than a studio quickie to capitalize on the surprising success of the first Police Academy, is

## REVIEW MOVIE

made cheaply enough to get back its investment and more. However, a thin story, too many old jokes and flat char-

acters should prevent anyone from wanting to see chapter three.

Like Police Academy, Police Academy II centers around Mahoney (Steve Guttenberg) and five of his fellow police recruits, none of whom should be trusted in public roles. That's the running joke that kept Police Academy alive. In this sequel, the recruits are sent to an "unnamed district in an unnamed city to aid a captain (Howard Hesseman) who is being railroaded out of office because of his inability to curtail a trouble-making gang.

Of course, it's no secret that the recruits eventually wipe out the gang. The only question is how many gross-

out routines they can pull along the way. Most are directed at the audience, such as an overweight officer who eats his cereal after flicking kitty litter off it. Others are directed at the in-house antagonist, a lieutenant with the usual comedy bad-guy tricks who wants Hesseman's job. The gang does things such as substitute shampoo for epoxy and trick him into walking in front of a Neighborhood Watch group naked.

The villains gang is made up of cosmetic store punks who get away with nearly everything. They wreck Tim Kazurinsky's store and then destroy a grocery store, yet no one can stop them. Not the police, of course, who are incompe-

tent enough to let our friends become heroes.

It all makes for silly stuff, but one nagging issue keeps Police Academy II from being something you should see.

No matter how hard the producers try, it still isn't as funny as Airplane, the multi-cast, joke-a-minute comedy it's based on. It isn't even as funny as it could be, or should be, and when you're left enough time to actually let some of this sink in, Police Academy II becomes flat parody.

Police Academy II has a few bright spots. Kazurinsky's portrayal of the put-upon shop owner is amusing as well as his poster of Dirty Harry to scare

off potential robbers. The best part, though it too is a bit overdone, is Tackleberry's (David Graf) affair with a female officer who is equally into firearms.

Tackleberry's affair is by far the best and most consistently funny part of the movie, particularly a visit to his mate's home, where even he is taken aback by the customary violence.

In fact, with a bit of variation, this whole movie might have flown on that relationship. Instead of Police Academy II, maybe Tackleberry I would have been a better idea. Instead, Police Academy II is, like most sequels, definitely not a must see.

## THE NIGHT BEFORE

Part II — Some people collect stamps, others collect coins. Miles Braun collects phobias. New York City, January 1965 — the last weekend of winter vacation. Miles and his buddy Philip "Flip" Bugliosi meet at Eddie's Diner, a hamburger haven. With one semester left in their college careers, Miles adds another anxiety to his collection — his girlfriend has just broken up with him.

Were you telling lies? — the night before  
Was I so unwise? — the night before  
When I held you near  
You were so sincere  
Treat me like you did the night before

(Beatles, 1965)



### John Rood

The two sat down in the booth as their burgers were brought over.

"So, Braun, how was vacation?" Flip inquired between chews.

"All work and no play makes Miles a dull boy."

"Wrong, boy, you were born boring," Flip teased with a mouth glutted with food. They both laughed. "Wanna cig?" Flip asked as he pulled out a Lucky Strike.

"You know I don't smoke, Flip," Miles scolded. It was like offering Mister Rogers a six-pack.

"Right, Iggy, but it doesn't hurt to ask, does it?" It was another name he called Miles, short for ignorant. Flip lit the cigarette. "So how's Helen?"

Miles looked down at his plate, then slowly up at Flip. "We broke up New Year's Eve," he disclosed with a straightforward hush.

Flip's unshaven face was stunned. "No kiddin'? For real? You two were gonna get hitched!"

"Were," Miles accented quietly. He smeared a french fry in some ketchup. Helen Woodward had been his girl for three years. They were what everyone called the perfect couple, "Goody four-shoes." Flip used to tease them. Miles loved Helen for her, not for her

money. (Helen was heir to the "View-Master" empire. Miles and Flip could never understand how one toy could make so much money. But it did, and the Woodwards had redefined wealth.) Their breakup came as a surprise to Miles, and it hurt.

The two stared at each other in silence for a moment. "Nice burgers, Eddie! Is this a St. Bernard?" Flip yelled out to the kitchen, changing the subject. Miles cracked a small grin. Eddie gestered obscenely in Italian, laughing loudly. His tattooed anchor flexed as he flipped over a grilled cheese.

"Hey listen, Braun, 'Goldfinger' starts at the Palace at midnight. Whaddya say we catch it for the third time? If we run, we'll make it," Flip said.

"Deal." Miles appreciated Flip's efforts, seeing his hero in action might help him forget. They grabbed their coats and ran out into the dark. The sleet still fell, glazing over the streets. The marquis at the theater reads, "GOLDINGER," the Palace was known for its missing letters. Little was said during the movie.

"Hey, Miles, you gotta a suit like Bond's." Miles was obsessed with James Bond — his subtle slyness, danger with class. No dame was gonna upset James Bond, no sir. Flip amused himself throughout the movie by blowing squeaking noises through his Good-N-Plenty box.

The two left the theater and walked along the shadowed streets. Steam puffed out in the cold air as they spoke.

"Wanna cig, 007?"

"No thanks, pal." If Miles was to ever smoke, he knew just the brand it would be. James Bond smoked Chesterfields.

Their dress shoes clapped on the wet sidewalk as they strolled back to the diner.

Flip turned to him. "You gonna see her?" he asked quietly.

"I've got to. Tomorrow maybe."

A few silent minutes passed, then suddenly, in a burst, Flip ran ahead of him, jamming on an imaginary guitar, screaming an appropriate tune. "You think you lost your love, well I saw her yesterday-yay! It's you she's thinking of, and she told me what to say-yay!" Flip stopped and looked back, laughing hysterically.

"Bugliosi, you're nuts." Miles showed his boyish grin.

Q. Who will appear at The Drumstick this week? Check one.

- A. The Duke Brothers on Thursday, April 4th. The gang will be Friday and Saturday, April 5th and 6th and some of the people who read ahead.
- B. The Duke Brothers on Friday, April 5th. The gang will be Friday and Saturday, April 5th and 6th and some of the people who read ahead.
- C. The Duke Brothers on Thursday, April 4th. The gang will be Friday and Saturday, April 5th and 6th and some of the people who read ahead.

To find the correct answer use any coin and scratch off the blacked area to the right. If the paper tears in an effort to see the answer, you will lose.

P.S. Scratch on blacked area with coin until paper tears.

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