

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Don't wait nine months — 'Junior' delivers

Quik Facts

Movie: "Junior"

Rating: PG-13

Stars: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Danny DeVito, Emma Thompson, Frank Langella, Pamela Reed

Director: Ivan Reitman

Grade: B-

Five Words: Arnold's gonna be a mommy!

By Gerry Boltz

Staff Reporter

Although "Junior" isn't the best pregnancy comedy ever conceived, seeing the film is worth the labor.

Director Ivan Reitman again has teamed up with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito to make another comedy, probably in the hope that it would be as funny and successful as the trio's previous mega-hit "Twins."

Sadly, it's not.

Dr. Alexander Hesse (Schwarzenegger) and colleague Dr. Larry Arbogast (DeVito) have developed a new drug, Expectane, which encourages healthy pregnancies.

However, funding for the project is cut off after the Food and Drug Administration nixes the drug, and the standard sneaky research administrator Noah Banes (Frank Langella) throws Hesse and Arbogast out of the lab facilities and replaces them with Dr. Diana Reddin (Emma Thompson), a ditsy scientist working with frozen embryos.

To further the research so as to gain more funding for the project, Arbogast convinces Hesse that they should use the drug on a human subject.

That subject turns out to be Hesse. Eventually, he gets more than he bargained for,



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Dr. Alex Hesse (Arnold Schwarzenegger, left) sees astounding results after volunteering to be a test subject a pregnancy drug that he and Dr. Larry Arbogast (Danny DeVito) developed in the movie "Junior."

especially when he and Reddin begin to fall in love with each other.

Although the film contains several funny moments throughout, its pacing does not work well.

Most of the comedy is focused on Schwarzenegger, Thompson and their displays of affection. One would think that a passionate love scene with Schwarzenegger and Thompson would look like a hippo trying to mate with a flamingo, but the

scene is both touching and amusing at the same time.

Emma Thompson's comedic role in "Junior" is vastly different from the roles in which most American audiences are used to seeing her — one exception being her role as the horny nurse in "The Tall Guy."

While DeVito's character is a moral step above some of the stuff he's done in the past ("Twins," "Other People's Money"), his

character still lacks a certain edge; he lacks lilt and panache.

Although Schwarzenegger delivers the bulk of laughs during the film, his character has little development prior to the pregnancy. Hesse is supposed to be brilliant, withdrawn and anal-retentive, but these traits are not shown clearly to the audience.

Even if "Twins" was a better teaming for Reitman, DeVito and Schwarzenegger, "Junior" still delivers.

Clichéd film literally is 'A Low Down Dirty Shame'

By Sean McCarthy

Staff Reporter

Keenen Ivory Wayans, best known for creating the TV show "In Living Color," has created a mess with "A Low Down Dirty Shame."

For more than an hour and a half, the audience is plunged into an unwatchable world of bad-cop-movie clichés and unfunny stereotype jokes.

The movie has the originality of a "Matlock" episode. Wayans plays Andre Shame, an ex-cop who was

kicked off the force because of a failed drug bust. He now is a private investigator, working suicidal jobs for petty cash. His trusty, loyal, spunky sidekick, Peaches (Jada Pinkett), tries to bring him out of his glumness.

Just before Shame washes out,

DEA agent Rothmiller (Charles Dutton) meets him and gives him a second shot at glory.

Shame's job is to track down \$20 million worth of stolen money. This job eventually leads him to drug lord Ernesto Mendoza (Andrew Divoff), the man whom Shame presumably killed in the botched drug bust.

Shame also meets with his former lover, Angela Flowers (Salli Richardson). Flowers is a lusty vamp who dumped Shame for Mendoza. Shame then must choose between his lusty former lover or his sweet and loyal sidekick.

Wayans seems to have a nostalgia for his "In Living Color" days with this movie. The two gay characters who reviewed films in the TV show reappear as Peaches' roommate and his boyfriend. But the actors are different, and the jokes are stale in this one.

Jada Pinkett uses her body and her voice to create a sassy assistant with an attitude. Peaches could have been used for a comic highlight in the movie, but instead of focusing on Peaches' character, Wayans focuses on her smartass cracks. Peaches seems to say the word "girlfriend" in nearly every sentence of the film.

"Dirty Shame" is Wayans' first try at a semi-serious movie. Wayans admits to being a huge fan of action pictures. With "Shame," Wayans

Quik Facts

Movie: "A Low Down Dirty Shame"

Rating: R

Stars: Keenen Ivory Wayans, Charles S. Dutton, Jada Pinkett, Salli Richardson

Director: Keenen Ivory Wayans

Grade: D

Five Words: Wayans' homage to cop films

wanted to create a character that resembled Peter Gunn.

Wayans also wanted to keep the humor that was in his earlier efforts. What makes "Shame" fail is not Wayans' passion for the genre but his word-for-word regurgitation of every tired plot in cop genres.

Wayans was able to use cop genre clichés and make a great parody with his film "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka."

It's a shame, literally, that he did not learn his lessons from that film. While trying to make fun of the stereotyped characters in cop films, Wayans turns each character in "Dirty Shame" into the stereotype that he's trying to make fun of.



Courtesy of Hollywood Pictures Company

Keenen Ivory Wayans as Andre Shame in "A Low Down Dirty Shame" specializes in retrieving stolen goods.