

'Broken Arrow' hits action bull's eye

By Gerry Beltz
Film Critic

After making "Hard Target" a couple years ago, with Jean-Claude Van Damme (and his amazing, spin-kicking ego), director John Woo allegedly swore he would never make another film in the United States. We all can be glad he changed his mind.

Woo is back, with a vengeance, with "Broken Arrow." Vic Deakins (John Travolta) and Riley Hale (Christian Slater) are a couple of buddies in the Air Force, with Deakins playing teacher to Hale's student.

The two are assigned to a test run of a Stealth bomber with a couple of nuclear warheads in the cargo bay. But Deakins has other plans for the nukes. He ejects Hale from the plane and drops the unarmed nukes, thus making them "broken arrows" (military jargon for lost nuclear weapons).

In pursuit of Deakins, Hale forges a unique relationship with park ranger Terry (Samantha Mathis), and the two start causing a bit of chaos and mayhem as they try to prevent the detonation of the nuclear devices.

The film rocks, from beginning to end. The action never stops, though it does slow down from time to time to



John Travolta stars as Stealth bomber pilot Vic Deakins in the new action-thriller, "Broken Arrow." Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

move the plot along.

It wouldn't be a John Woo film without tons of action, and this IS a Woo film. Battles on trucks, trains and in a copper mine keep the pulse pounding, and the score by Hans Zimmer ("Crimson Tide," "The Lion King") helps things along very nicely.

Granted, being a Woo film, this also means suspension of disbelief. (C'mon, would the United States Government really entrust two nuclear devices to these two boneheads?)

See **ARROW** on 14

The Facts

Film: "Broken Arrow"
Stars: John Travolta, Christian Slater, Samantha Mathis
Director: John Woo
Rating: R (language, violence)
Grade: A-
Five Words: Adrenaline junkies will get fix

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