

Surprising twists in plot begin with murder

MURDER from page 12

in North Korea or Regis' impending eviction to make room for a parking garage.

Snipes is excellent in his role as secker-of-truth Regis, and this role rises above a great deal of his past work for the simple reason that he takes himself seriously. Instead of the murder desensitizing him to the point he's cracking jokes left and right, it's made him a very serious, somber human being.

The Facts

Film: "Murder at 1600"
Stars: Wesley Snipes, Diane Lane, Alan Alda, Dennis Miller
Director: Dwight Little
Rating: R (Nudity, Language, Violence)
Grade: B+
Five Words: White House cover-up? No way!



"MURDER AT 1600" stars (from left to right) Dennis Miller, Diane Lane and Wesley Snipes. PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

'8 Heads' can't deliver the goods as dark comedy

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A series of humorless gags ensue, including the most stagnant and worn-out of all — his duffel bag gets switched.

Of course this results in a cross-country pursuit; meanwhile an unassuming and seemingly oxygen-deprived college kid, Charlie, ends up with the duffel bag in Mexico where he is vacationing with his girlfriend and her parents.

Needless to say, he is shocked to find eight heads in his duffel bag and doesn't know how to react. So what does he do? He runs around like a chicken with its head cut off (sorry, had to get it in there somehow).

Andy Comeau, who plays Charlie, is the kind of guy who looks as if he saw a movie once but never thought he'd be lucky enough to act in one. He is so excited that it seems he entirely forgot that people were going to be watching this. He lamely incorporates age-old antics into a performance

The Facts

Film: "8 Heads in a Duffel Bag"
Stars: Joe Pesci, David Spade, Andy Comeau, Kristy Swanson, George Hamilton, Dyan Cannon
Director: Tom Schulman
Rating: R (Language, Violence)
Grade: D-
Five Words: Decapitate writer of "8 Heads"

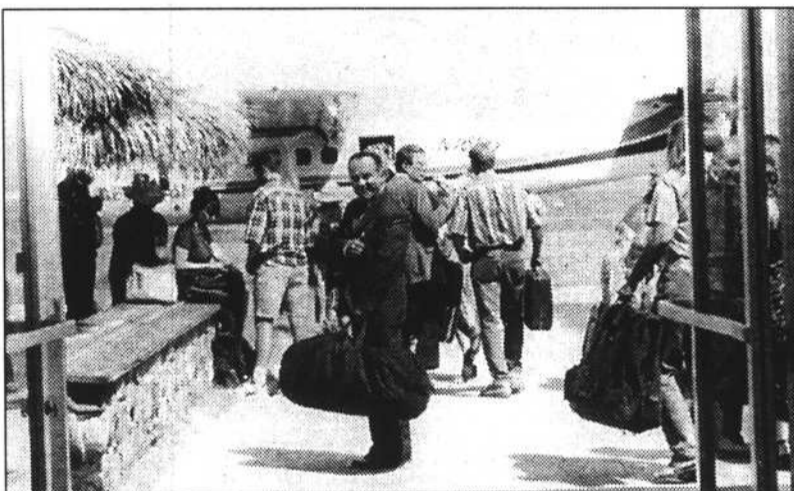


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JOE PESCI stars as Tommy Spinelli, a mobster who is asked to deliver a bagful of body parts to his boss, in the new comedy "8 Heads in a Duffel Bag." The film, directed by Tom Schulman, also stars George Hamilton, Dyan Cannon, Andy Comeau, Kristy Swanson and "Saturday Night Live" alum David Spade.

that would embarrass Jerry Lewis.

The screenwriting shares many of the same problems; the film is primarily character-driven, but none of the characters are going anywhere.

"8 Heads" is a tremendously lame and baldfaced rip-off of a trendy and successful genre done in such an insipid, mediocre manner as to make one envy those eight heads in the duffel bag.

'Anaconda' keeps spot at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Anaconda" kept its grip on the top box-office spot for a second weekend with an estimated \$12.2 million in ticket sales.

"Liar Liar" was second with \$10.2 million, according to industry estimates Sunday. The Jim Carrey comedy has earned \$133.6 million in just five weeks.

"Anaconda," about giant snakes that terrorize scientists in the Amazon, saw its take drop just 27 percent from its opening weekend, which by Hollywood standards means it had staying power.

Three new films made the Top 10, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

"Murder at 1600," starring Wesley Snipes as a Washington homicide detective digging into a White House murder, opened in third place with \$8 million. "McHale's Navy," based on the old TV sitcom, tied for seventh place, grossing \$2.1 million. And Joe Pesci's new film about a professional killer and a luggage mixup, "8 Heads in a Duffel Bag," was ninth with a \$1.8 million gross.

Another hit-man comedy, "Grosse Pointe Blank," placed fifth, taking in \$4.9 million in its second week.

Final weekend box office figures were to be released today.

The Big Squeeze

The following films brought in the most box office receipts over this past weekend (Friday through Sunday)

1. Anaconda	\$12.2 Million
2. Liar Liar	\$10.2 Million
3. Murder at 1600	\$8 Million
4. The Saint	\$7.3 Million
5. Grosse Pointe Blank	\$4.9 Million
6. The Devil's Own	\$2.4 Million
7. McHale's Navy	\$2.1 Million
7. That Old Feeling	\$2.1 Million
9. 8 Heads in a Duffel Bag	\$1.8 Million
10. Chasing Amy	\$1.6 Million
10. Scream	\$1.6 Million

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