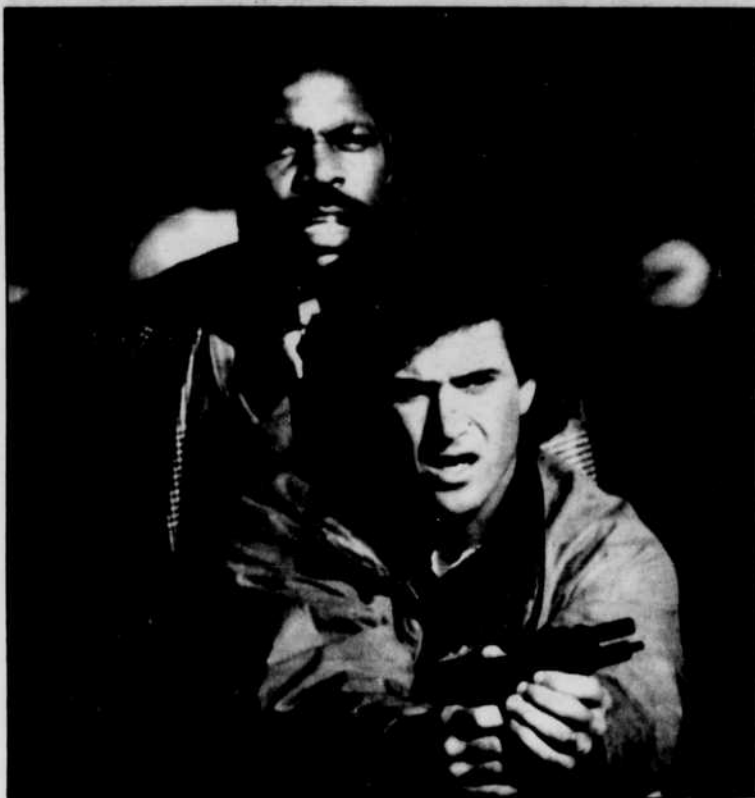


At the movies

'Lethal Weapon' packs humor, fast-paced action



Danny Glover (top) and Mel Gibson learn to work together in the action-thriller "Lethal Weapon." Courtesy photo

By Kevin Long
Of the Emerald

Mel Gibson is probably better known for his role as the brash and handsome hero of the "Mad Max" movie trilogy or for his outstanding acting achievement in "The Year Of Living Dangerously." These performances and others such as those in the movies "Tim" and "The River" usually reveal Gibson's more serious side.

Review by
Kevin Long

But in his latest movie, "Lethal Weapon," co-starring Danny Glover ("The Color Purple"), the viewer finds a fast-paced action movie abundant with humor.

Gibson, a two-time winner of the Australian Film Institute's Best Actor Award (equivalent to an Oscar) for his work in the movies "Tim" and "Gallipoli," stars as the rough and raucous Martin Riggs.

Riggs is an ex-member of one of the Special Forces units that served in Vietnam and now works for the Los Angeles

mix like ammonia and bleach.

But eventually as the two start working together, they begin to combine forces while sorting

'Lethal Weapon' is not a great movie. It is a good movie with a nice pace of action along with suspense, sometimes exposing, scaring and fooling the viewer.

Police Department, where he has been moved from narcotics to homicide for his apparently dangerous and psychotic behavior.

Now meet Riggs' new partner in the department, Roger Murtaugh (Glover). A reputable homicide detective with a sparkling record and a wife and kids at home, he has reluctantly just turned 50.

A closer look shows that Riggs is a man with little regard for life, his own or anybody else's, and would gladly stake his life in the line of duty.

But Murtaugh wants to play things safe, so at first, the two

through what at first glance appears to be a suicide, later turning up everything from murder and pornography to the CIA and the mystery of an ugly past.

Throughout the movie there is a mixture of drama, comedy and violence, with some emphasis placed on violence. However, Gibson does a fine job of delivering his somewhat mundane humor, and Glover is not far behind.

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'Angel Heart' is old-fashioned tale worth seeing

"Do you know that in some religions, the egg is the symbol of the soul?" remarks lawyer Lewis Cipher (Robert De Niro) as he peels an egg open with pointy white fingernails and then pops the whole thing in his

mouth.

That is about as subtle as the movie "Angel Heart" gets. It would take a fool not to figure out who De Niro is in the first minute, or not to guess that it's more than money that keeps

likable gumshoe Harry Angel (Mickey Rourke) pounding the pavement for his lawyer client.

However, the audience, like Angel, is expected to believe the only thing going on is a simple missing persons case.

Ostensibly, Cipher hires Angel to track down a client who defaulted on a debt several years ago. Cipher wants the client to pay up, and all Angel has to do is find him.

Review by
Mary Courtis

Unfortunately, that task proves harder and riskier than Angel anticipated. One by one, his informants turn up graphically and gruesomely dead, and Angel finds himself to be the police's prime suspect.

Obviously, someone is setting him up. But who that someone turns out to be may surprise you.

There are also some good performances. Rourke is appealing and sadly believable as the shiftless P.I. who keeps bumbling into bloodier and bloodier water, and De Niro is equally



Courtesy photo

The daughter of a voodoo priestess (Lisa Bonet) becomes involved with Harry Angel (Mickey Rourke) in "Angel Heart."

fine as the soft-spoken but menacing Cipher.

At last he seems to have found a role that allows him to release that brooding malignancy that always lurks just beneath the surface of any

character he plays.

Finally, there is Lisa Bonet who gives a remarkably sensitive and realistic performance as the voodoo priestess Epiphany, whenever she can manage to keep her clothes on.

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