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Sum-mer-tiiiiime ... and the Movies Are Easy

BY BART MILLS



Dan Aykroyd as Joe Friday's nephew
and Tom Hanks as the obligatory side-
kick spoof the old TV series *Dragnet*.

Kiss-kiss, bang-bang, ha-ha. Very little talk-talk, think-think. Summer's coming, and it's movie-movie time again. For full enjoyment of Hollywood's school's-out product, triple-figure IQs won't be necessary.

Most of all, summer means comedy—and comedy means Eddie Murphy. Murphy will be back as Axel Foley in *Beverly Hills Cop II*, returning to the scene of his crimes against anything buttoned-down and dull. Once again, Foley starts off back on his home turf in Detroit. But his one-time adversaries from the Beverly Hills cop-shop beg him to return to where the palm trees sway and the sequel deals are rich. The villain this time is Brigitte Nielsen, wife of Sylvester Stallone (who was once set to play Axel).

Steve Martin would not let the season pass without committing another comedy. In *Roxanne*, as he did in *The Three Amigos*, he toys with an old-movie setting: the story of Cyrano de Bergerac. He updates the old French story to the present and chooses leggy Daryl Hannah as his lady fair. And he sports the longest nose seen in movies since Pinocchio—no lie.

The biggest summer comedy—at least the one with the most stupendous budget—is *Ishtar*. The title location is a watering hole in the desert that employs the oddly matched Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman as a lounge act. The CIA and Beatty's

real-life *namorada*, Isabelle Adjani, provide plot points between Paul Williams songs. Neither Beatty nor Hoffman has made a movie in five years. All Hollywood is waiting for this pair, whose high salaries helped swell the cost of this little laughter to more than \$30 million, to fall on their faces.

Dragnet 1987 and *The Untouchables* reprise TV shows that entertained our forefathers. Detectives in those days wore snap-brim hats and always played it straight. Dan Aykroyd as Joe Friday ("nephew" of the Joe Friday played by Jack Webb) loses the hat and plays the character for laughs. Tom Hanks aids and abets as the obligatory sidekick. The location? Los Angeles. This is the city.

The Untouchables' city is, of course, Chicago. The time is Prohibition and the villains are bootleggers led by Al Capone (Robert De Niro). The hero is Eliot Ness (Kevin Costner). The director is Brian De Palma, who covered similar territory in *Scarface*—and covered it in blood.



Clark Kent (we all know what he's wearing under that shirt) boogies down with Mariel Hemingway in *Superman IV*.

Incorruptible cops—the movies can't get enough of them. Nick Nolte stands tall as a Texas Ranger in *Extreme Prejudice*. In this Walter Hill adventure, Nolte has to nab an old pal gone bad (Powers Boothe) and avoid being corrupted by a squad of unsanctioned crime-stoppers who specialize in going too far.

COVER PHOTO BY STEVE SHAPIRO