

Die Hard 2: Willis and gang bigger and better than ever

By Brian Bloch
Emerald Associate Editor

More action, a better story, meaner bad guys and stronger special effects. Finally, a sequel that truly outdoes its predecessor.

Die Hard 2, the long-awaited sequel to the 1988 hit *Die Hard*, is out and definitely worth seeing.

Movie Review

Once again, John McClane (Bruce Willis) finds himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. But this time he's in Washington D.C.'s major international airport doing battle with a corrupt special forces unit that will stop at nothing to get what it wants.

Headed by Col. Stuart (William Sadler), the unit seizes control of the airport's computer guidance controls, communications and landing operations from a remote location. The tower, unable to land planes growing desperately low on fuel, is at the complete mercy of the fanatical unit.

McClane, whose wife Holly (Bonnie Bedelia) is on one of the planes circling over the air-

port, must convince the skeptical airport security of the terrorists' professionalism while often singlehandedly attempting to save the lives of his wife and the hundreds of passengers waiting above.

With money as the motivator, the terrorist unit is trying to intercept a plane carrying General Ramon Esperanza (Franco Nero), a former Latin American military officer being extradited to the United States for drug trafficking.

The special forces unit threatens to kill the passengers by sending them plunging into the runway if its demands aren't met. Because of the snow and wind, the planes must rely totally on the tower's guidance to land. With control of the tower, the unit can alter important navigational coordinates such as sea level on the instruments of the blinded planes.

McClane's L.A. police department buddy Al Powell (Reginald VelJohnson) is back from the first movie, as is the smut-hounding TV newsman Dick Thornberg (William Atherton). John Amos (*Coming to America*) plays Capt. Grant, head of the army unit sent in to help, and Dennis Franz (*Hill Street Blues*) is featured as the



Courtesy photo

Bruce Willis takes on a whole new batch of bad guys in *Die Hard 2*.

disbelieving captain of the airport police.

The script, based on Walter Wagner's novel *58 Minutes*, is fast-paced, intriguing and loaded with action. The airport setting lends itself exceptionally well to this kind of action film, far more so than the skyscraper featured in *Die Hard*.

Director Renny Harlin and producers Lawrence Gordon, Joel Silver and Charles Gordon assembled a first rate crew of

designers, engineers and effects personnel for the movie, a well-done job apparent in the final product.

With the likes of director of photography Oliver Wood (*Miami Vice*), production designer John Vallone (*Star Trek-The Motion Picture*), costume designer Marilyn Vance (*The Untouchables*), film editor Stuart Baird (*Gorillas in the Mist*) and stunt coordinator Charles

Picerni (*Die Hard*, *Lethal Weapon 2*), the technical team makes this movie hard-hitting and visually exciting.

The stunts, explosions and firefights are as real as they come, captivating and pulse-raising, especially on the big screen. You'll be right there when McClane leaps onto moving planes, dodges bullets and most definitely dies harder than ever before.

Ziggy Marley to perform

CONCERTS

- Blues Jam, Thursday at Good Times Cafe and Bar, 375 E. 7th Ave. 21 and over.
- Tickets are on sale for Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers, who perform Monday, August 27 in the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall. Family Stand opens for Marley. Tickets are \$19.50.

Calendar

- Fantuzzi with guest Onefullness, Tuesday, 9:30 p.m., Community Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. All ages show.
- Kudana, African marimba ensemble, Wednesday, 6 p.m., Westmoreland Park. Free.
- Uncle Chester, rhythm, Wednesday, 9:30 p.m., Community Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$4 at the door. All ages show.

CARNIVAL AND AUCTION

- The American Gymnastics Training Center, 885 McKinley St. Eugene, is hosting a carnival featuring a barbecue, live entertainment and an auction July 20-22. A barbecue chicken dinner will be held each night. There will be a gymnastics demonstration, ballet performance and magic show July 21, beginning at 7 p.m. A hang glider, motorcycle, truck, furniture, tools, bicycles, computers and other items will be auctioned off at 3 p.m. July 22. The carnival will also feature game booths and food.

FESTIVAL

- Bohemia Mining Days, July 18-22, a parade, outdoor runs, exhibits and food will be featured at the festival. Row River Rd., next to Best Western Village Green in Cottage Grove. For information call 942-8985.

PERFORMING ARTS

- South Pacific, July 13-Aug. 4, Mainstage Theatre, Central Plaza, Downtown Eugene, 8:30 p.m. For information call 683-4368.

- Play readings, July 20 & 27, Lane Community College Blue Door Theatre. For information call 726-2202.

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Pagemaker 1	Aug 22	10am-12
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