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**ENTERTAINMENT**



Leslie Nielsen returns as Lt. Frank Drebin, the inept detective in *The Naked Gun 2 1/2: The Smell of Fear*. Courtesy photo

**Jokes fly again in sequel**

★★★  
*Naked Gun II 1/2: Showing at area theaters. Rated PG-13.*



Unless a medical condition prohibits you from going into convulsions of laughter, then you should treat yourself to *The Naked Gun II 1/2: The Smell of Fear*. Leslie Nielsen is back as Lt. Frank Drebin, America's favorite foolish, unflappable flatfoot. This time, the enemies are slimy oil magnates bent on destroying our nation's environment.

Robert Goulet heads this thugish lot that seeks to undermine U.S. environmental policy by having one of its own men pose as a world-renowned environmental authority who will tell the president what decisions to make.

According to the ads for the movie, Goulet was chosen because the filmmakers couldn't afford Wayne Newton. He doesn't make as good a criminal as Ricardo Montalban did in the first *Naked Gun*, but that's nitpicking since I went to this movie to laugh and ended up on the floor.

Again, Nielsen's partners are George Kennedy and the accident-prone O.J. Simpson as Detective Nordberg. They provide some moments, but as in the first installment, the best scenes are between Nielsen and the ageless Priscilla Presley. This time sporting red hair and a chip on her shoulder carried through from

the last movie, she is the object of Nielsen's desire as he tries to win back her affection.

The sequel has more of a plot than its predecessor, but it doesn't forget the laughs. Far from it, this boasts some of the funniest scenes put to film since *The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad*.

It's impossible to describe any part of this movie without giving away jokes, which no one wants to do. It's also hard to review this film since most people already know whether they will see this movie. If your tastes lie with such films as *Airplane*, *Top Secret*, and the first *Naked Gun*, then you will not want to miss this.

Presley proves herself a good comedic actress with a fine sense of timing and a suitable amount of sex appeal and sultriness, combined with the goofy air that any actor in this film must have.

Nielsen is once again perfect at making silly faces at all the right times and keeping a straight face when it's appropriate. Although he starred in the 1950s as a straight man, a character actor and sometimes a romantic lead, he has pretty much erased that image as far as contemporary audiences are concerned.

It's fun to go back and look at Nielsen's older films, where he delivers the same type of lines with serious intent that get laughs as Lt. Drebin.

Writers David Zucker and Pat Proft throw so many jokes at the audience that many are probably

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David Zucker

**Director says  
no to television**

By Lucas Gutman  
Emerald Contributor

David Zucker, director of *Naked Gun II: The Smell of Fear*, his brother Jerry and friend Jim Abrahams started a comedy troupe in the mid-1970s called The Kentucky Fried Theater. Director John Landis saw the young men and decided to feature their antics in a film, *The Kentucky Fried Movie*.

It was an irreverent lampoon of television, coming attractions and kung-fu movies. That kind of parody continued in further group efforts by the three in such films as *Airplane*, *Top Secret* and *The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad*, the last of which was based on a short-lived television series that was a deadpan and outrageous parody of crime dramas such as *Dragnet*.

Jerry went on to direct other features, such as last summer's box-office smash *Ghost*. Abrahams has also directed other films and gone into producing. David Zucker has stuck to his slapstick roots with his most recent effort, *The Naked Gun II: The Smell of Fear*.

The following are excerpts from a phone interview with David Zucker before the release on *Naked Gun II*:

ODE: Do you think *Police Squad* would be successful on TV now?

Zucker: No, it still needs a laugh track. TV humor needs rhythm. On TV, it's joke-laugh-joke-laugh. In the theater you have the audience laughing.

ODE: Will there be a third *Naked Gun* movie?

Zucker: I don't know. It took so long to do this one. Maybe if we can come up with a good idea.

ODE: Did you always want to be a filmmaker?

Zucker: No. In college I did historical research and went on archaeological digs and some other things that didn't have to

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