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# Summer Entertainment



True Lies, the No. 1 movie at the in the country, is Arnold Schwarzenegger's revenge on all of his critics after last year's critically disastrous Last Action Hero, which incidentally placed 12th for 1993.

## 'True Lies' excessive but top-notch

By David Thorn  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

With million-dollar stunts and a multi-million-dollar star, Arnold Schwarzenegger's new movie *True Lies* is arguably the most excessive action picture ever to hit the silver screen.

But excess is precisely what makes *True Lies* such a top-notch motion picture — from the jaw-dropping chase scenes to the equally jaw-dropping moments when Arnold dances the tango.

*True Lies* is unique in that it is both an awesome action picture and a parody of action pictures. Every stunt is taken a little further than it ought to go. Ordinarily, that would be a disappointment, but with *True Lies*' carefully timed jokes and clever one-liners, there's no time for the audience to say, "No way." They're too busy laughing.

There is so much humor in *True Lies* that it seems hard to

categorize it strictly as action. Most action films have a few funny moments (*Die Hard* and *Lethal Weapon*) but they were still action movies. *True Lies* has more jokes than any other action film I've ever seen.

But, thankfully, the jokes aren't as silly as those in more obvious parodies, such as *Hot Shots!* *True Lies* strikes an almost perfect balance between the two genres.

In the movie, Schwarzenegger plays Harry Tasker, a secret agent for a secret agency (the "Omega Force") who embarks on James Bond-esque adventures without ever telling his wife that he is anything more than a sales rep for a computer company.

During the course of the film, his wife Helen (Jamie Lee Curtis) discovers his true identity as a lying spy (hence the title) and becomes embroiled with him in a game of tongue-in-cheek inter-

national intrigue.

Seeing Schwarzenegger pull off the James Bond act with Sean Connery-type flair, and Curtis playing the mousy office-worker-turned-sexy spy, only serves to remind the audience how far these two actors have come since he was a overdubbed he-man in *Hercules in New York* and she was a teen-age scream queen in *Halloween*.

The two are ably backed by comedian Tom Arnold, Roseanne Arnold's soon-to-be ex-husband and former star of the now-defunct TV series *The Tom Arnold Show*. Arnold plays Tasker's secret sidekick, and really infuses the film with some of its best humor.

But the best humor comes not in the form of one-liners but in the situations themselves, where impossible stunts are carried out with such grace and suaveness as to make Ian Fleming jealous.

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