



Inside Our Movies: *Central Intelligence* (2016)

Unexpected unavailability leads to surprising rewards

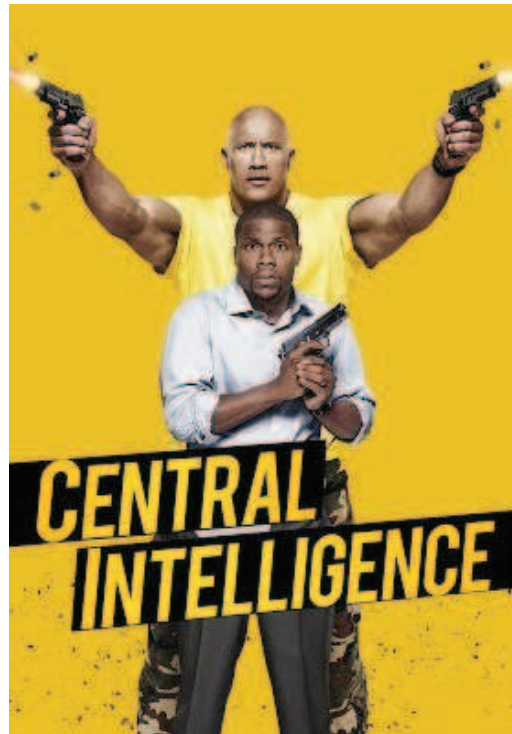
By Jim Bryson

It may take you a while, but if you ever start running out of interesting films at our local library then you should know about the Passport Program. With a simple membership at the Vernonia Library you can apply for and get a Washington County or Multnomah County Library card as well. This is an exceptionally handy benefit considering that these library systems are top notch and have wonderfully diverse and very large collections of films, from Charlie Chaplin to current releases.

This week I had intended on watching and reviewing *Bladerunner* (1982), a timely notion because of the recent, highly anticipated, release of its sequel *Bladerunner 2049* (2017). However, I wasn't able to find *Bladerunner*

in the stacks at the Hillsboro library, there are so many films but someone else must have had the same idea as I. This wasn't that much of a problem as there are lots of other options. So I started looking in the "B" section and then moved onto the "Cs." This is when I ran across *Central Intelligence* (2016). I wasn't searching for a buddy comedy but that is what I ended up watching, and it was awesome!

Central Intelligence (2016) is a comedy film from late last year starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Kevin Hart. The premise of the story is that our two main characters are former high school classmates. Calvin Joyner (Kevin Hart) was "The Man" in high school but has found his life to not be the life he thought he would have 20 years later. In contrast, Bob Stone (Dwayne Johnson) was the brunt of extreme high school bullying and hasn't been seen or



heard from in the 20 years since graduation. As their high school reunion grows nearer the two friends reconnect. It turns out that our bullied high school kid has turned into a secret agent! Not only that, but he is on the run and needs an old friend's help. Bob still sees Calvin as

the coolest guy in school and Calvin still sees Bob as the high school outcast but both characters have a lot to teach the other about heart and friendship. While the viewer can clearly see that the high school roles have been reversed, the joy of this movie is the two characters learning to see themselves in the same way that we do.

As you can see, this is a pretty standard Hollywood story. Each character finds personal and interpersonal value and unexpected discovery. At the same time we get to see two unfit characters form a strong bond. This film very much reminded me of other movies such as *Twins* (1988) and *Rush Hour* (1998). What made this film enjoyable is the performance of Johnson. Hart, the comedian, plays the straight man character to The Rock's comedic timing... Can I, just for a minute, point out the fact that Dwayne Johnson is an awesome actor? It is unusual to find an actor known for their physicality who can offer performances ranging from menacing, *Faster* (2010), to the entirely hilarious performance that we see here.

Central Intelligence (2016) makes for a very fun, although familiar, story that is surprising in its fresh approach. This and other wonderful films can be seen using our local Vernonia library system.

Mist-Birkenfeld Helping Circle Fall Festival



Mist-Birkenfeld Helping Circle Fall Festival will be held November 4 at the Mist School Gym at 6:00 pm. The Fall Festival will feature a raffle for a quilt of the area's historical buildings and landmarks of the past, created by Carol Workman from Scappoose. Tickets are currently being sold at the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Department; the drawing will be at the festival. The Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Volunteer Association is also raffling a portable generator. The festival has hot dogs, pies, a silent auction and live local entertainment.

The Mist-Birkenfeld Helping Circle has been a women's community service organization for the past 82 years. The purpose of the Helping Circle remains the same: women working together to fund community projects and to help people in their time of need.

Where Do You Read the Voice?



Mary Lou Busch from the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire District stopped and read the Voice during a recent trip to Juneau, Alaska.

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