

'Swordfish' is a world of scandal and deceit

CHRISTINA MCFARLAND
Staff Writer

"Swordfish" turned out to be one of the few good films I've seen lately. It is an action/thriller filled with surprises.

The film stars Hugh Jackman as Stanley Jobson. At one point in his life he was the most dangerous hacker in the world. However, after hacking into a FBI program that was doing Big Brother-like surveillance on Americans, Stanley found himself in jail. Now free from prison, he lives alone and penniless in a trailer, banished from all computer contact. But one day a sultry woman named Ginger (Halle Berry) shows up at his door, requesting his presence at her employer's. All he has



to do is meet him, and Stanley will receive \$1 million and the chance to get his daughter back from his porn star ex-wife. Stanley agrees because he longs to be with his daughter.

Ginger and Stanley soon meet with Gabriel Shear (John Travolta). Gabriel soon reveals to Stanley what he needs his hacking abilities for. There exists a hidden slush fund accumulated by the Drug Enforcement Agency in a money-laundering scheme, code-named "swordfish." Gabriel wants to get a hold of this \$9 billion for his own benefit. Stanley can understand that, but he disagrees with the idea. But the idea of getting his daughter back and receiving \$10 million doesn't sound so bad either. He agrees to take the mission.

There is also some chemistry involved in the film between Ginger and Stanley. They never act upon it, maybe because signals are somewhat mixed, or perhaps because Gabriel and Ginger's relationship is unclear. Soon after Stanley agrees to take the mission, he finds Ginger wearing



PHOTO COURTESY OF 'SWORDFISH' OFFICIAL WEBSITE

The hard-core cast of "Swordfish," from left to right: Ginger (Halle Berry), Gabriel Shear (John Travolta), Agent Roberts (Don Cheadle) and Stanley (Hugh Jackman).

a wire. She confesses she's with the DEA and advises him to act casual, not telling Gabriel. Stanley agrees.

In order for this operation to work, they need to find a bank with the adequate computer equipment and satellite contacts. Fortunately, there's one

in Los Angeles. When Stanley finds himself at the World Banc Investors Group, he learns the truth about Gabriel's twisted scheme. So Stanley comes up with an idea to put a kink in Gabriel's plan. However, Gabriel's smarter than Stanley thinks, and it be-

comes a thrilling fight to the end.

This was an awesome movie. It truly is one of the best films I have seen lately. There's an interesting twist at the end that makes it all the better. I strongly recommend renting this one.

Television's new fall lineup falls flat

DANIEL MERYS
Staff Writer

Autumn is upon us and of course, the most exciting part of this season is...television! The networks have submitted shows for our approval and, with the exception of two, they all suck. We'll go through the networks one by one and review the new fall lineups.

"Alias," ABC's new action drama, airs on Sundays at 9 p.m. Jennifer Garner plays Sydney Bristow, an athletic grad student who finds out that her employer, a top-secret division of the CIA, has some secrets that not only put her life in danger but also threaten the security of the free world. Apparently, she was recruited during her freshman year of college when she was shy and introverted. But now she's an ass-kicking secret agent. Right. This show is a blatant rip-off of the show "La Femme Nikita," which ripped off the movie "Point of No Return," which ripped off the French film "La Femme Nikita."

"Thieves" isn't much better. John Stamos plays Johnny, an old-school charm-your-way-into-the-mansion-style thief. His partner Rita, played by Melissa George, is all about hi-tech gadgetry and explosives. Together they make the perfect team, until they're caught by the FBI. But the Feds offer them a "get out of jail free" card. Now these career criminals have to recover things that the FBI has somehow misplaced: national art treasures, underworld secrets and nuclear launch codes...that kind of thing. Did they check between the couch cushions? The show's premise is utterly ridiculous and the

urge to change the channel is nigh overwhelming. If you can suspend disbelief for an hour, then you'll like "Thieves." It plays Fridays at 9 p.m.

CBS has rolled the dice yet again and spewed forth another Ellen DeGeneres sitcom. This time Ellen, also the name of the show, is a teacher. After Ellen's highly publicized break-up with Anne Heche, CBS apparently figured that people still give a damn that Ellen DeGeneres is a lesbian. "Ellen" is on.

The two halfway-decent new shows both belong to Fox, home of demon-spawn "Temptation Island." "24," starring Kiefer Sutherland, is far and away the best new show to come along in the past few years. Sutherland is Jack Bauer, a member of the CIA's counter-terrorism unit. His mission is to stop the assassination of a presidential candidate, Senator David Palmer. The show is based around the events of a single day, with each episode being an hour of that day. "24" airs Tuesdays at 9 p.m., with a replay on Friday evenings, also at 9 p.m..

Also on Fox is "The Tick," starring Patrick Warburton (Puddy from Seinfeld) as the blue-suited superhero. Along for the ride are his sidekicks, Arthur, played by David Burke, Captain Liberty, played by Liz Vassey and Batmanuel, played by Nestor Carbonell (who almost manages to steal the show). Not as great as the cartoon, but "Men in Black" producer Barry Sonnenfeld comes as humanly possible.

With "The Tick," "24," "Titus," "Malcolm in the Middle," "Undeclared," "That 70s Show" and "The Simpsons," Fox has managed to turn itself into the best network on television.



Right: "The Tick,"
played by Patrick
Warburton



Left: "The Moth,"
played by David
Burke
Photos courtesy of
"The Tick" official
website

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