



Peacocks ... on ... Ice!
Jon Heder in *Blades of Glory*

Snow Flakes

New Will Ferrell film never heats up

BLADES OF GLORY: Directed by Josh Gordon and Will Speck. Written by Craig and Jeff Cox. Cinematography, Stefan Kzapsky. Music, Theodore Shapiro. Starring Will Ferrell, Jon Heder, Will Arnett, Amy Poehler, Jenna Fischer, William Fichtner and Rob Corddry. Paramount Pictures, 2007. PG-13. 93 minutes. ★★☆☆☆

Having triumphed last year with *Stranger than Fiction*, a clever but overlooked comedy about a loser who learns how to live, Will Ferrell returns with *Blades of Glory*, a film about a loser who happens to ice skate. Essentially *Dodgeball* on ice — the worst of the recent dumb-guys-in-charge films, according to my scorecard — *Blades of Glory* is about the male/male figure skating team of Ferrell and

other Ferrell vehicle, and it's a seriously bad career move to see him throwing up on himself again (literally). Even Ferrell's juvenile supporters, who at this point must comprise the gross of his fan base, will grow bored with him after a few more misses like the stone-cold *Blades of Glory*.

Now I'd like to tell you a story. If you listen closely, you might just become very rich.

A few years ago, two twentysomething brothers in L.A. got tired of serving lattes to wealthy studio executives. They wrote a script treatment of the winter Olympics — a mere eight pages in all — hopeful that eventually they might get invited to pitch their idea in front of the executives themselves. As it turned out, that wasn't necessary: Their

Will Ferrell has become what Ben Stiller was five years ago: bland, predictable and about to be overexposed.

Jon Heder, who join forces when they're individually banned from competition. The film is Heder's funniest work since *Napoleon Dynamite*, while at the same time a career low for Ferrell, whose debased, sex-addicted Chazz Michael Michaels is only funny when he's bickering with Jimmy MacElroy (Heder). That's because Chazz is a retread, a recycled cartoon: He's the ice-skating version of Ricky Bobby, Ferrell's imbecile character in *Talladega Nights*. Both are incredibly stupid narcissists who make us laugh (well, mostly) for everything they don't understand.

In fact, the success of *Blades of Glory* can probably be attributed to the juggernaut of *Talladega* rather than the merits of the current film, which has dominated box office receipts since its release. Ferrell has become what Ben Stiller was five years ago: bland, predictable and about to be overexposed. (Stiller, when offered the role of Chazz, passed.) Watching Will Arnett (*Arrested Development*) and Amy Poehler (*SNL*) play an evil figure-skating duo has merits — not to mention the pleasure of seeing Jenna Fischer, from *The Office* — but *Blades of Glory* is an-

idea for a film started a bidding war. They were too young to know who Tonya Harding was, but they became very, very rich. The two brothers made over a million dollars for the script that became *Blades of Glory*.

When you consider that *Blades of Glory* will earn more than \$250 million, it makes sense — financial, not artistic — to pay a fraction of that for a script. So here's what I want you to do. Think dirt. Think kneepads. Think big kids on little bikes. In other words, think *BMX*. The major sports have been drafted into films, but *BMX* cries out for a script to immortalize it. Remember to keep it vulgar. People expect lots of farts and burps and vomit. Also, make sure your pedaling protagonist is an idiot. Call him Rick, since real Ricks probably won't "get it," at least not enough to complain. Then, after some accident in which the villain (i.e., the smarter character) falters, have Rick narrowly win the championship trophy plus the girl and a lifetime supply of beef jerky. When you're done writing, find yourself an agent, if one hasn't already found you. Then sit back and watch the money pour in for *BMX Bandits: Wheels of Glory*. **EW**

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2ND ANNUAL

THURSDAY // APRIL 26TH
BIJOU ART CINEMAS

07:00 PM - OPENING NIGHT GALA:
FINISHING THE GAME
Q&A WITH DIRECTOR JUSTIN LIN AND CAST ROGER FAN & SUNG KANG TO FOLLOW.
09:00 PM - RECEPTION FOR FILMMAKERS
LOCATION TBA

FRIDAY // APRIL 27TH
UO AND WILDISH THEATRE

NOON - LITTLE TIGER
UO - ROOM TBA
02:00 PM - PANEL: ASIAN AMERICANS IN HOLLYWOOD W/ JUSTIN LIN, SUNG KANG, & ROGER FAN
UO - ROOM TBA
05:15 PM - MIGHTY WARRIORS OF COMEDY - 1HR 5 MIN
WILDISH THEATRE
06:45 PM - EVE & THE FIREHORSE
WILDISH THEATRE
08:30 PM - SHORTS PROGRAM A: POLITICALLY INCORRECT - MURDER AND MAYHEM
WILDISH THEATRE

* DRY CLEAN ONLY (6MIN)
* OF KIN AND KIND (13 MIN)
* OFFICER TSUKAMOTO (27MIN)
* LATENT SORROW (4MIN)
* ABDUL (8 MIN)
* DAO (2.5 MIN)

10:00 PM - VIP, STAFF & FILMMAKER AFTER-PARTY
LOCATION TBA

SATURDAY // APRIL 28TH
WILDISH THEATRE

10:30 AM - PANEL: WHAT IS ASIAN AMERICAN CINEMA? W/ DR. MARIE LO (PSU) AND DR. PATTI SAKURAI (OSU)
11:45 AM - SHORTS PROGRAM B: OREGON ROOTS

* CROSSFADER - (5MIN)
* PYONGTAEK, STRUGGLES OF SOUTH KOREAN FARMERS - (40MIN)
* MONUMENT (5MIN)
* ASIAN HUNTER (5MIN)

01:15 PM - SENTENCED HOME
PRECEDED BY BLEACH AND PETER SEAV
03:30 PM - SHORTS PROGRAM C: LOVE HURTS

* HERE COMES PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR KENGO KOSHIYAMA (13 MIN)
* THE KISS (18MIN)
* STILL (11 MIN)
* THE MAILBOX (11 MIN)
* TUNNELS (21 MIN)

06:15 PM - ASIAN STORIES (BOOK 3)
08:15 PM - MAN PUSH CART

SUNDAY // APRIL 29TH
WILDISH THEATRE

10:30 AM - WORKSHOP TBA 1HR (TENTATIVE)
11:45 AM - THE CATS OF MIRIKITANI
WITH PILGRIMAGE AND PANEL
02:15 PM - FINDING HOME
03:45 PM - SHORTS PROGRAM D: BANANAS ARE FUNNY

* SPY MOMS (5 MIN)
* TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT? (4MIN)
* BAMPINAY (21 MIN)
* THE CELERY STALKER (6MIN)
* THE HAIRS (5 MIN)
* DUMBLINGS (8MIN)
* UNSPOKEN (5 MIN)
* ON BEING BANANA (33 MIN)

06:30 PM - CLOSING NIGHT GALA - COLMA: THE MUSICAL
PRECEDED BY HONORABLE SON AND MUSIC VIDEOS. Q&A WITH HP MENDOZA & DIRECTOR RICHARD WONG TO FOLLOW
09:30 PM - RECEPTION FOR FILMMAKERS (WILDISH)

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