

Theatre

Comic Jamie Foxx is *HELD UP!*

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Smart, successful and sexy, Michael Dawson's a winner, a Chicago businessman with a bright future and a beautiful fiancée, Rae. On a romantic vacation to the Grand Canyon, the young lovers tear up the highway in Michael's new toy, a vintage sports car in mint condition, purchased on a whim in Arizona. Life is perfect.

But there's a catch, one small detail, and as the saying goes, the devil is often in the details. Rae doesn't know that the car was purchased with the money they saved to buy a home. And when she discovers Michael's dirty little secret, she dumps him on the spot. Dead-set on returning to Chicago immediately to start her new life, Rae hitches a ride with some good ol' boys to the Las Vegas airport.

Alone in the boonies with only the car he loves, Michael is determined to get Rae back - a simple task, or so he thinks.

A quick stop for gas starts the downward spiral when a pimple-faced teen jacks Michael's car, leaving Michael, the city boy, stranded at the Sip & Zip convenience store with a group straight out of "Hee Haw." The local locals include: joystick junkie Rusty, the neighborhood kid who cops all the store's quarters; the crotchety clerk who loves "General

Hospital"; the philosophical biker who spends his days reading magazines off the rack; and Mary, a sheltered desert girl who is as scared of the outside world as she is of her own shadow.

Within minutes, Rodrigo and his sidekicks, would-be bandits who are desperate to get the funds needed to deliver a mysterious crate across the border to Mexico, join them at the Sip & Zip, closely followed by Sheriff Pembry and his ragtag team of redneck deputies. As the two factions square off, Michael and the locals are caught in the crossfire. As a madcap hostage situation develops that includes an exploding hotdog, a killer potato chip and the realization that nothing is what it seems, Michael must find a way to keep Rae from leaving forever.

But it's a good thing that brawny, brainy Mike Dawson is there, because without his mercurial

mouth and instincts to save the day, the bungling, keystone cops and halfwit thieves might get themselves into real trouble.

HELD UP, from acclaimed director Steve Rash ("The Buddy Holly Story"), stars film and television superstar Jamie Foxx ("Any Given Sunday") and Nia Long ("The Best Man").

Adapted for the screen by Jeff Eastin from a story by Eastin and Erik Fleming, the film was produced by

Neal H. Moritz, Jonathon Komack Martin and Stokley Chafin.

HELD UP, executive produced by Mark Amin and Devin Dewalt, also stars Barry Corbin, Jake Busey and Latin heartthrob Eduardo Yaez. The HELD UP soundtrack features hot tracks from some of hip-hop's greatest artists, including: Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, Short Khop, TWDY, featuring Too Short, E-40, and Helluva. The soundtrack is now available from Spot Music.

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