

Victims Turn Tables on Wall Street Crook in ‘Tower Heist’

By the time Wall Street titan Arthur Shaw (Alan Alda) was charged with running a billion-dollar Ponzi scheme, it was already too late for the authorities to find the fortune that he had ostensibly hidden in offshore accounts. As a condition of being released on bail before trial, he was ordered kept under house arrest in his luxury penthouse at The Tower, an exclusive high-rise located on Central Park West. While this development



**MOVIE
REVIEWS**

by Kam
Williams

housekeeper (Gabourey Sidibe), Charlie the concierge (Casey Affleck) and bankrupt, fellow resident Mr. Fitzhugh (Matthew Broderick). Reluctant to let Shaw walk away with their

Tower, although they will still need the help of a real crook, since none of them have ever cracked a safe before. So, Josh enlists the assistance of Slide (Eddie Murphy), a motor-mouthed petty thief he’s occasionally encountered on the street. Once Slide joins the conspiracy, the only remaining hurdles involve first gaining access to an apartment guarded by the FBI, and then robbing it right under the nose of the accused who’s restricted to the premises, 24-7. This is the promising premise of “Tower Heist,” the latest buddy comedy directed by Brett Ratner. While the teaming of Eddie Murphy and Ben Stiller doesn’t come close to matching the inspired screen chemistry of Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan in Ratner’s Rush Hour trilogy, the talented twosome nevertheless manage to generate enough laughs, with the help of a colorful support cast, to make you forgive the fact that the crime caper grows increasingly improbable the further the film unfolds.



Eddie Murphy and Ben Stiller generate laughs, with the help of a colorful supporting cast

might have prevented the arrogant embezzler from becoming a fugitive of justice, it simultaneously left him surrounded by some of those he’d swindled. For, not only had he stolen from the wealthy, but he had also talked the staff at The Tower into trusting him with all the assets in their pension fund. Consequently, the callous con man’s victims include building manager Josh (Ben Stiller), Lester the doorman (Stephen Henderson), Enrique the bellhop (Michael Pena), Odessa the

money, the group hatches a plan to take the law into its own hands, upon learning that the remorseless embezzler has stashed about \$20 million in cash somewhere in his condo. After all, as employees, they certainly have intimate knowledge about and unusual access to the inner workings of The

Excellent (3.5 stars)
Rated PG-13 for profanity and sexuality.
Running time: 104 Minutes
Studio: Universal Pictures

C O M M U N I T Y C A L E N D A R

SEATTLE NOVEMBER 2011

BULLETIN BOARD



If you have an event you want to share with the community, email it two weeks in advance to *The Skanner* at info@theskanner.com

Friday November 11

ST.STEPHENS 4TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR! Fourth annual Bazaar to raise funds to host Thanksgiving Day dinner for homeless and those in need! Arts & Crafts, photos with Santa and much more. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. 13055 SE 192nd St in Renton.

Saturday November 12

CELEBRATE NATIONAL GAMING DAY! Kids & teens are invited for an afternoon of fun games,

costumes and a scavenger hunt in celebration of National Gaming Day. 2 – 5 p.m. The Seattle Public Library, Northeast Branch, 6801 35th Ave. NE

Sunday November 13

JULIANA & PAVA PERFORM ANCIENT RUSSIAN FOLK SONGS: Seattle based vocal ensemble that performs traditional polyphonic Russian folk songs. 2 – 3:30 p.m. The Seattle Public Library, Central Location, 1000 Fourth Ave. Free for everyone to enjoy.

Saturday & Sunday November 12 & 13

28TH ANNUAL SEATTLE GOODWILL GLITTER SALE: Goodwill’s annual sale of holiday and formalwear as well as designer and vintage clothing and accessories. Both days 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Seattle Goodwill is located at 1400 S. Lane St.

Wednesday November 16

REFUGEES IN WASHINGTON: Refugees from several

different countries share personal stories about how they came to Washington. 7 p.m. Bellevue Arts Museum.

Friday November 18

FAMILY DINNER AND MOVIE NIGHT: “Beverly Hills Chihuahua 2” at van Asselt Community Center. Take a night off from cooking for the family. The activity fee \$2 per person or \$5 per family (up to 4 people). 6 – 8 p.m. at 2820 S. Myrtle St. For more info call 206-386-1921.

Saturday November 19

CELEBRAT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEATTLE’S WORLD’S FAIR AT THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY: The Future Remembered. The 1962 Seattle World’s Fair and Its Legacy. 1 – 3 p.m. Seattle Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave.

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE: More than 10,000 items will be for sale at bargain prices at the 2011 Friends of The Seattle Public Library Holiday Book sale: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Warren G Magnuson Park, 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Building No. 30