Mixing violence, comedy yields mixed feelings

By Jared Vichko
Sports Editor

Confusion would be the best way to describe the feeling I got during Starsky and Hutch. Part funny, part serious and part stupid, I wasn’t sure how to feel. Perhaps the producers weren’t exactly sure what ideas they wanted to convey, but the message was a bit skewed.

The movie, which could be compared with other comic duos like Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker, tries hard to blend action and comedy, but the result isn’t a success.

The movie starts off on a serious note, with Vince Vaughn’s character killing someone over a bad cocaine transaction and a lost airplane, setting the plot for the movie.

Ben Stiller plays Starsky, a dedicated cop who stays true to his line of work, no matter what it costs.

His partner, Hutch, short for Hutchinson (Owen Wilson), plays a smooth talking ladies man who uses his position to cut corners and could be labeled as a dirty cop.

After both mess up, Starsky for going too far in a bust by shooting people in the crowd and Hutch for keeping money for himself that was evidence, instead of punishment, the duo is paired together.

There is an obvious conflict of interest as Starsky is angered by Hutch’s laid back casual approach and Hutch finds Starsky to be a bit over the edge.

A comical exchange takes place when Hutch, in trying to get information, goes to see Huggy Bear, played by Snoop Dog. Hutch, not at all affected by the illegal activities going on in the area is irate when Starsky tries to make arrests for things such as illegal weapons and cocaine. The skirmish ends with Starsky shooting the tail of off Huggy Bear’s pet lizard.

Just like all of its predecessors, the movie has some sort of subplot, and each go their own separate way briefly. They play some sappy music, one will walk by the other’s house, contemplate going in, only to walk away. As they walk away, the other will come out, with both of them having just missed each other. This rings true here as well.

Another pleasant surprise is a cameo appearance by Will Ferrell. Ferrell plays a jail informant with homoerotic tendencies; He asks Hutch to reveal his belly button and take off his shirt and twirl.

The funniest happening occurs in the final scene, when both go under cover at a party. Starsky dresses up as a member of the mafia, where he utters his now famous “do it” several times over. The comedy is a stupid comedy, some of it physical, but it is the manerisms and nuances of Starsky and the laid back approach of Hutch that make people laugh.

The movie was very funny at certain points, but the struggle for identity overshadowed the humor. There are very funny lines, such as “Do it” and “I like your moves. I like your style.” But those moments of laughter are too often intermixed with violence, leaving the viewer in a state of wonder.

King ‘Towers’ with ‘Calla’

By David Maccar
News Editor

Steven King’s fifth installment of the Dark Tower series, The Wolves of the Calla, follows gunslingers Roland, Eddie, Susannah, Jake and their talking pet billy-bumbler Oy on their journey along with the people of Calla Bryn Sturgis, who are the rarest where children are the norm in the Dark Tower.

Roland’s world and the alternate “our” world as the degeneration of Roland’s world and the alternate dimension that is tied to ours and every other world by the Dark Tower.

Since the book focuses on a smaller, complete story, it can be read on its own if one were so inclined, but to fully understand the story one must read the other Dark Tower books or be resigned to total confusion at times. This is not a book even for a casual reader of King, but for true Dark Tower fans.

King’s greatest aptitude for creating unique voices for different characters shines through in Wolves as his language and writing style changes dramatically from the alcoholic priest to the knightly Roland of Gilead to the southern slang tone of Susannah (who has been impregnated by a demon at the start of the book). The reader really feels a separation between the characters, which makes a complicated story easy to understand and enjoyable to read.

Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson star in the film-version remake of the 1975 comedy series Starsky and Hutch, which was released last Friday, March 5.

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Movie Times

United Artists Movies

At Market Fair

3521 US Rt. 1, Princeton, NJ, 08540

50 First Dates
(PG-13, 96 min.)
12:10 p.m. | 2:20 p.m. | 7:20 p.m. | 10:20 p.m.

Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen
(PG, 89 min.)
12:35 p.m. | 3 p.m. | 5:25 p.m. | 7:45 p.m. | 9:35 p.m.

Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights
(PG-13, 86 min.)
12:45 p.m. | 2:55 p.m. | 7:15 p.m. | 10:15 p.m.

Hidalgo
(PG-13, 135 min.)
12:15 p.m. | 3:45 p.m. | 7:10 p.m. | 10:15 p.m.

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
(PG-13, 201 min.)
12:05 p.m. | 4:10 p.m. | 8:25 p.m.

Miracle
(PG, 135 min.)
12:50 p.m. | 3:35 p.m. | 7:15 p.m. | 10:20 p.m.

The Passion of the Christ
(R, 126 min.)
12 p.m. | 1 p.m. | 2:45 p.m. | 4 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. | 7:30 p.m. | 8 p.m. | 10:10 p.m. | 10:30 p.m.

Starsky & Hutch
(PG-13, 101 min.)
12:20 p.m. | 2:35 p.m. | 4:55 p.m. | 7:35 p.m. | 10 p.m.