

sneak preview



Open enrollment hits the Police Academy, and with standards out the window, the new crop of cadets is an oddlot of misfits, maniacs and misguided altruists. An action-comedy that chronicles the conversion of this year's kooks into next year's cops.

Police Academy is funny yet familiar

By Bonnie Langford

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Police Academy is a dumb movie, but it's funny. You'll probably sit through the whole thing and think that you've seen the same plot somewhere before. You probably have. The resemblance to Animal House and Stripes is obvious, but then, it looks like it was supposed to be that way.

The police cadets go through the same "clothing line" that the Stripes recruits did. Only this time, instead of bikini underwear, Karen Thompson, a socialite played by Kim Cattrall, requests a size nine. She still receives the same basic set of clothing everyone else does.

The basic story of Police Academy revolves around the mishaps of Carey Mahoney, played by Steve Guttenberg. Mahoney's troubles begin when he parks a Trans Am ... on it's side.

While this gives the audience a few laughs because the jerk who owns the car deserves it, it gives Mahoney trouble. He's fired from his job as attendant and faces criminal charges.

Mahoney, a previous offender, is offered a chance — he can avoid prison by joining the police academy. The new mayor has dropped all restric-

tions for eligibility. Mahoney figures he can get kicked out in no time, so he joins up.

Accompanying Mahoney to the academy is Dr. Monsignor Larvell Jones, played by Michael Winslow. Jones can produce sound effects of a wide variety, including P.A. systems and machine guns. His talent is at it's best in a hilarious scene depicting an imaginary video game.

It's definitely the characters, not the storyline, that make this movie enjoyable.

Just looking at Sgt. Callahan, played by a well-endowed Leslie Easterbrook, is good for laughs. If there was ever such a thing as a macho woman, she is one.

She even proves to be too much for the Latino lover, Jorge Martin. Andrew Rubin does a great job with this Anglo who pretends to be Latin because "it getshim girls."

On the other extreme, Marion Ramsey's Laverne Hooks has got to be the epitome of the female wimp. She can't get her voice above a whisper, or her rear above the obstacle course wall. Remember that scene from Stripes?

Two rats who are out to get the group in trouble, and eventually get themselves thrown

out of the Academy, are Blankes (Brant Von Hoffman) and Copeland (Scott Thompson). One of the best scenes of the movie is their being tricked into going to the Blue Oyster Bar.

Blankes and Copeland think they are going to find some dirt on the other cadets, but all they find is a new definition for "dancing, just dancing."

Police Academy is rated R for the adult language; there's no explicit sex, but some funny innuendos.

In other movies, here are this week's "don't waste your four dollars, and go to the Chicken instead" picks:

Greystoke — The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes — Unless you just really like monkeys, this one just has too many ape scenes. And faithful Tarzan fans are going to be disappointed because in this movie Jane meets Tarzan in England, not in the jungle, like we all know really happened.

Friday the Thirteenth: The Final Chapter — Hopefully it is the last one. The first one wasn't good either, but at least poor Jason finally gets a rest from all of this psychopathic killing.

new faces

María Alonzo is Hollywood's seniorita

United Press International

HOLLYWOOD — There was a time when Hollywood was never without a resident Latin spitfire, a hot-eyed Central or South American damsel with flashing eyes, raven black hair, dazzling white smile and fiery temper. Ole!

These chili peppers were rarely superstars but they were a spicy alternative to some of the town's pallid blond leading ladies and freckled all-American girls-next-door.

Lupe Velez, who eventually took her own life, was among the first. Carmen Miranda, with the fruit salad in her hair, was a comic interpretation.

Maria Montez was a smoldering seniorita. Rita Moreno was a hot tamale. Dolores del Rio was a patrician member of the species.

But for the past decade or more Hollywood movies have ignored Latin bombshells in favor of Yankees and Europeans.

Now there is Maria Conchita Alonzo. Not a household name to be sure, but she co-stars with Robin Williams in "Moscow on the

Hudson."

Unhappily for Latin American actresses with ambitions to break into movies, Alonzo plays an Italian. The character is Latin all right, but from the wrong hemisphere.

Alonzo, born in Cuba, reared in Venezuela and educated in Washington, has all the attributes of the classic sensual seniorita.

"Blondes have been popular for so long maybe people are getting tired of seeing so much of them," Alonzo said, Spanish grace notes clearly evident in her voice.

"I'm not sure blondes have more fun. Remember, brunettes stay younger longer because the sun doesn't damage our skin.

"Also, they say Latin girls have more hot blood. So maybe we have more fun because we try harder. When you fight for something the rewards are greater. I think it is time for passionate Latin actresses."

Alonzo says South American actresses are discouraged from coming to Hollywood by a handful of performers who have returned south of the border disappointed and frustrated by the dearth of

roles for Latin types.

She recalled that Lupe Ferrer left Venezuela to star in "The Children of Sanchez" but failed to work in other American pictures.

"There has never been a major Hollywood star from Venezuela," she said, "and I can't think of many from anyplace in South America."

"There isn't much opportunity for stardom down there except in soap operas, which are the biggest form of entertainment. I starred in 10 soaps before I came to Hollywood.

"I also did two Venezuelan movies, one in the Dominican Republic and one in Miami with the Cuban star Alvarez Guedez in Spanish.

"Most latin performers don't like to abandon their success to come here and not work. But you have to take chances in life. They advised me not to try but I was determined. I was here two years before I was cast in 'Moscow on the Hudson.'"



Robin Williams stars as a Russian who decides to defect while shopping at Bloomingdale's, and falls in love with salesgirl Maria Conchita Alonzo in Columbia Pictures' "Moscow on the Hudson," produced and directed by Paul Mazursky from a screenplay by Mazursky and Leon Capetanos. Cleavant Derricks and Alejandro Rey also star in the film.