

'Surf Ninjas. . .' Major wipe out, dudes

By Joe Leih
The Battalion

"Surf Ninjas"
Starring Ernie Reyes, Jr., Nicholas Cowan, Leslie Nielsen and Rob Schneider
Directed by Neal Israel
Rated PG
Playing at Cinema III

Director Neal Israel's new film "Surf Ninjas" obviously attempts to blend one-liner wit with intense martial arts to create an uproariously funny, action comedy.

Unfortunately, it hardly comes close. The humor falls flat, and the leg-swinging, high chopping antics are, if anything, blasé.

The plot concerns Johnny (Ernie Reyes, Jr.) and Adam (Nicolas Cowan), two California kids only interested in sand, sun and most of all surfing. Their lives, however, soon change when one-eyed Zatch (played by Ernie Reyes, Sr.) reveals to the wave-catching duo that they are the lost crowned princes of the Patu San island.

After a period of disbelief, the boys quickly gather Lt. Spence (rap star Tone Loc), their best friend Iggy (Saturday Night Live's Rob Schneider) and Johnny's pre-arranged bride, Ro-May (former Miss Teen USA Kelly Hu) to take back their throne from the evil Colonel Chi (Leslie Nielsen). Needless to say, it's ridiculous, lame and incredibly unfunny.

In fact, Ernie Reyes Jr. seems to be the most lacking of the cast in comedic talent. With rough teenage lingo, his waylaying wisecracks stumble awkwardly throughout the entire film. The real life third degree black belt may be able to deliver a karate kick, but he proves with this cinematic feature that he definitely cannot deliver a joke.

Comedy veterans, Schneider and Nielsen, also sadly disappoint. Schneider's running commentary quickly turns brutally



Leslie Nielsen plays Colonel Chi, who is about to be stepped on by an elephant in the lame comedy film, "Surf Ninjas."

annoying and Nielsen hardly appears enough to even attempt to save the film.

The only chuckles come from the physical humor of the never-

ending onslaught of martial arts; yet, even this turns boring and pretty darn dull at the end.

Basically, "Surf Ninjas" just ain't worth watching.

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