

'Son of The Pink Panther...' It's genetic — accidents galore



Herbert Lom, Roberto Benigni and Claudia Cardinale star in the new generation of the Pink Panther, "Son of The Pink Panther."

By Jacqueline Ayotte
The Battalion

"Son of the Pink Panther" Starring Roberto Benigni, Herbert Lom, Claudia Cardinale and Debrah Farentino Directed by Blake Edwards Rated PG Playing at Schulman VI

Da Dum Da Dum Da.... No, it's not a return from the grave of the original silly "Pink Panther" star, Inspector Clouseau. It's even worse and sillier too. It's his illegitimate son, Inspector Jacques Clouseau, Jr. (Roberto Benigni). Jacques is a most loyal, courageous, yet very accident-prone young man who's following in the footsteps of his humorous father in "Son of the Pink Panther." This spin-off of the popular comedy film series contains much of the same qualities

and characters of the originals. However, Jacques is skinnier, goofier and a lot more obvious about his awkwardness than his father. Despite these characteristics, he is very much like his father when it comes to attracting beautiful European women. When the breathtakingly gorgeous Princess Yasmin of Lugash (Debrah Farentino) is kidnapped, Commissioner Dreyfus (Herbert Lom) is appointed to the case. Jacques, a local officer, is called to aid Dreyfus. Jacques immediately falls in love with the princess and is determined to save her. It is not long before Dreyfus notices distinctively familiar mannerisms from Jacques. He senses that Jacques is accident-prone right away, but his unique way of mispronouncing words is valid proof he's Jacques Clouseau's son. The plot of the film is not one of its strong points. It becomes confusing at times due to the continual string of dry, yet brilliant European slapstick. But luckily, the humorous

acting is good enough to make up for the humdrum story line. Several familiar members of the Panther family are reunited in the film which is quite a treat for fans of the old movies. Burt Kwouk returns as Jacques' loyal manservant Cato. The striking Claudia Cardinale, the princess in the original 1964 "Pink Panther" returns as Maria, Jacques' mother. Graham Stark also returns as the disguise maker, Dr. Balls. Every actor has talent in this film. Even beautiful Farentino, who plays Princess Yasmine, can act. The most impressive thing about this film is the way it is so carefully produced. The camera angle gives off a small, European feel consistent with film quality displayed in the '60s. Nothing is panoramic and nothing is too bright. It's a pleasant change from the norm of slapstick movies, and a charming return to Panther humor.

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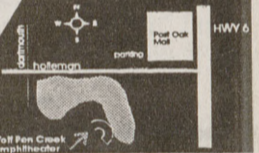
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