

# AGGIELIFE

## Summer's blockbuster season opens

*With a bang ... and with a fizzle*

Jackson joins cast, pushes *Die Hard* to higher level

By Nick Georgandis  
THE BATTALION

**Die Hard With A Vengeance**  
Starring Bruce Willis, Samuel L. Jackson and Jeremy Irons  
Directed by John McTiernan  
Playing at Hollywood 16  
\*\*\*\* 1/2 (out of five)

The third installment of Bruce Willis' *Die Hard* series opens with the funky beat of The Lovin' Spoonful's "Summer in the City" and a massive bomb going off in a New York City department store.

After this explosive beginning, audiences never have enough time to catch their breath until the end credits roll. It's no wonder that *Die Hard With A Vengeance* is attracting audiences, finishing second in last week's ratings.

The New York Police Department scrambles to find a lead on the bombing, but a clue drops right into their laps when the terrorist responsible for the incident calls the station. He (Jeremy Irons) identifies himself as "Simon" and says he will speak only with Detective John McClane (Willis).

The trouble is, McClane is on suspension and cannot easily be found. When he is located, he's not in the best of shape — blue jeans and an undershirt, with three-day old stubble and an extreme hang-over.

When Simon calls again, he gives McClane specific instructions and tells him that if he does not follow them to the letter, another bomb will be set off in a

"very public place."

Simon's instructions take McClane, newly and grudgingly reinstated to the force by his sergeant, to Harlem, where he must stand in the street wearing a sign with a racist message written on it. As anyone could guess, the locals quickly take note of McClane and his message.

Enter Samuel L. Jackson.

The hottest and arguably best actor in Hollywood today portrays Zeus, a Harlem shopkeeper who tries to keep his kids out of trouble by turning them off of crime, drugs and white people.

Zeus tries to do the right thing by getting McClane out of Harlem, but a local gang intervenes, and Zeus is forced to flee with McClane in a taxi. The pair's "I don't like you, you don't like me" banter provides great comedy for the action flick.

There are many twists and turns in the plot as McClane and Zeus slowly piece together what first seems to be a personal vengeance against McClane, but swells into an international economic heist.

Irons is masterful as the maniacal Simon, who taunts McClane and Zeus at every point of their grand adventure through New York City. He always seems in control of the game he's playing with the po-

lice department.

Willis is good as McClane, who joins John Rambo and Dirty Harry as one of the great action characters of all time. Going through the entire movie with an intense hangover provides good comic relief, as he asks anyone and everyone for aspirin, even when Simon bids him farewell before he attempts to blow McClane sky-high.

Jackson's name may be below the title, but his performance raises the movie to a higher level. He is the hesitant mediator between McClane and the gang of Harlem youths to the end when he taunts Simon from a police helicopter.

In short, this movie starts off the summer movie bonanza ... with a vengeance.

**After an explosive beginning, audiences never have enough time to catch their breath until the end credits roll.**



Samuel L. Jackson's and Bruce Willis' characters form an unlikely alliance in *Die Hard With A Vengeance*.

*Mad Love* fails with plot that lacks depth

By Kristen Adams  
THE BATTALION

**Mad Love**  
Starring Chris O'Donnell and Drew Barrymore  
Directed by Antonia Bird  
Rated PG-13  
Playing at Schulman 6  
\*\* 1/2 (out of five)

Two words: date movie. *Mad Love* is not a life-altering movie, nor will it be an Academy Award winner, but it is still an easy-to-watch movie that will make viewers talk.

*Mad Love* has some heavy issues, but they are dealt with lightly. It can be a fun movie to watch as long as the viewers are not as mentally unstable as the movie's main character. Chris O'Donnell plays Matt, a young, responsible knight-in-shining-armor who falls in love with Casey, a young damsel-in-distress played by Drew Barrymore.

On the surface, Casey seems to be a girl who just likes to have fun. She goes for late-night jet-ski rides and dances wildly to music in her room when alone. She likes to pull fire alarms and skip school.

But underneath this wild exterior, Casey has some serious mental problems.

Matt thinks Casey is wild but not actually crazy. He sees her as misunderstood rather than mentally unstable. When she is locked up in a



Chris O'Donnell plays Matt, who helps his girlfriend, Casey, played by Drew Barrymore, escape from a mental hospital in *Mad Love*.

mental hospital, Matt decides to break her out. The two take off on a romantic adventure to escape everything. They head south with nothing but good times on their minds.

But the further they travel from home, the harder things get. Casey starts to act off-balance and emotional, and Matt begins to realize that she is sick and needs help.

*Mad Love* has a pretty good plot, but it is not developed until the second half of the movie.

For example, the audience knows that Casey has mental problems, but for the most part, she just seems like a free spirit. The seriousness of her problems are held out until the end.

The role doesn't demand much from Barrymore. Casey is yet another fly-by-night re-

bellious character that doesn't pose much of a challenge for the young actress.

It seems like the director, Antonia Bird, never decided whether to make this a fun movie or a serious movie. *Mad Love* doesn't make a commitment to one emotion or the other, nor does it combine the two well.

It is hard to figure out the message of the movie, if there is one at all. Basically, *Mad Love* is light-hearted and fun with a little seriousness mixed in.

If moviegoers aren't looking for high drama or roaring laughs and don't mind a few developmental problems, this movie may entertain them. But movie junkies should beware — they may leave the theater with a feeling of apathy and disappointment.

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### STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICE

... a Dept. in the Division of Student Affairs

#### PERSONAL COUNSELING GROUPS SUMMER 1995

##### WHAT IS GROUP COUNSELING AND HOW CAN IT HELP?

Group counseling involves about four to ten people meeting with one or two counselors serving as group leaders. Group leaders work to provide a safe, confidential environment where group members are free to discuss their problems and concerns. Through the group, members identify with others who are experiencing similar issues and increase their self-awareness by obtaining genuine and honest feedback from others.

How much you talk about yourself depends on what you are comfortable with. You can benefit from group even when you are saying little because you will learn about yourself as others talk about their concerns.

##### SCS COUNSELING GROUPS FOR SUMMER 1995

If you feel that a particular group may be of help to you, make an appointment at the Student Counseling Service to speak to a screening counselor. The counselor can help you determine if group counseling would benefit you. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning group counseling, feel free to call Dr. Laura Bettor (845-4427 ext. 126) at the Student Counseling Service.

##### • AFRICAN AMERICAN SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
This group provides support for African-American students and explores issues related to gender-based expectations and performance. Issues such as self-awareness, sexuality, and self-discovery will be explored.  
Leader: Brian Williams

##### • BIOFEEDBACK WORKSHOP

Monday 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.  
One-session workshops designed to give students an introduction to relaxation techniques, including how biofeedback aids in relaxation. Individual follow-up consultation available.  
Leader: Nick Dobrovolsky

##### • DISSERTATION/THESIS SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesday 4:45 - 6:15 p.m.  
This group is for graduate students who are struggling in the process of writing their theses/dissertations. Potential group topics are issues of competence, procrastination, anxiety, goal-setting, and struggles with bureaucratic hurdles.  
Co-leaders: Brian Williams & Laura Bettor

##### • EATING ISSUES GROUP

Tuesday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
The purpose of this group is to increase insight about eating problems, explore issues behind the problems and make progress toward recovery. Group topics may include daily eating and exercise behaviors, dealing with others about food issues, developing trusting relationships, expressing feelings, and managing stress. A DOCTOR'S RELEASE IS REQUIRED FOR GROUP PARTICIPATION.  
Co-leaders: Mary Ann Moore & Barbara Pettit

##### • EMPOWERING YOURSELF II: SUPPORT GROUPS FOR WOMEN MOLESTED AS CHILDREN

Tuesday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Group for women with sexual molestation in their past. Identifying and exploring aftereffects of the abuse will be the focus. Emphasis is on handling relationships, building self-esteem, and gaining personal power.  
Co-leaders: Laura Bettor & Debbie Barton

##### • GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL GROUP

Wednesday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
This group will consist of 4 - 12 gay/lesbian/bisexual students. The primary focus of the groups will not be limited to sexual orientation issues, although issues related to this may be discussed. Topics may include but are not limited to: relationship issues, coming out to family and friends, religious concerns, and self-esteem.  
Co-leaders: Mary Ann Moore & Indira Hogan

##### • GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
This support group is for students grieving the loss or terminal illness of someone close, or who themselves are terminally ill.  
Co-leaders: Brian Williams & Debbie Barton

##### • INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GROUP

Thursday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
International and American students meet weekly on a drop-in basis to discuss concerns, receive support, and learn helpful skills (e.g., adjustment, assertiveness, stress management, time management and cross-cultural communication skills) so that they can be more successful while studying at the university. Cultural exploration will be highlighted. Group participation, discussion and interaction among members are encouraged.  
Co-leaders: Gisela Lin & Juan Riker

##### • INTERPERSONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY I

Group 1: Monday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Group 2: Tuesday 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
An experiential group for students wanting to confront troublesome interpersonal patterns that limit authentic encounters with others. Previous counseling experience required.  
Co-leaders: Ron Lutz & Barbara Pettit - Group 1  
Ron Lutz & Gisela Lin - Group 2

##### • OLDER THAN TRADITIONAL AGE GROUP

Thursday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
This group is for students whose concerns are related to issues which are different from traditional undergraduate concerns. Marriage, divorce, office politics, committee chairpersons, dissertation projects, and dealing with children and spouses are potential group topics.  
Co-leaders: Nick Dobrovolsky & Don Daughtry

##### • UNDERGRADUATE PERSONAL GROWTH GROUP

Thursday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
The purpose of this group for undergraduates is to facilitate self-exploration and personal growth through interaction with other students.  
Co-leaders: Laura Bettor & Indira Hogan

Texas A&M University has a strong institutional commitment to the principle of diversity in all areas. In that spirit, admission to Texas A&M University and any of its sponsored programs is open to all qualified individuals without regard to any subgroup classification or stereotype.



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