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Copycat offers nothing original

By Rachel Barry
THE BATTALION

Copycat is another serial killer thriller. The only differences it has from other thrillers are the names and faces in it.

It takes the same tired theme and adds a few famous faces in a vain attempt to save it from its own weak story.

Sigourney Weaver and Holly Hunter try desperately to give some credibility to the film and end up only discrediting themselves.

Weaver is a forensic psychologist named Helen Hudson who will not leave her apartment, afraid to face the world after a near-death experience following a lecture she gave on serial killers.

At the rate Hudson downs medication

with brandy chasers, it is hard to believe she would be in any state to think coherently about a murder case, much less be able to solve it almost single handedly and be right with every decision she makes.

Harry Connick Jr. is Darryll Lee Cullum, Hudson's nemesis and the cause behind her agoraphobia.

He is the pimply-faced murderer whose goal is to see Hudson dead. His character is the typical slow-poke southerner with the accent and bad grammar to boot. He is daunting and too obvious to be taken seriously as the smarts behind the string of clever murders.

Hunter plays M.J. Monahan, the police detective who helps Hudson solve the case. Monahan is as honest and smart as the

MOVIE REVIEW

Copycat
Starring Holly Hunter and Sigourney Weaver
Directed by Jon Amiel
Playing at Hollywood 11
★★ (out of five)

film industries stereotype of female detectives can be. As always, she stands out from the crowd of replaceable faces and movie scripts. Hunter brought as much as she could to the part of the tomboy cop who

portrayed the characters as trite and unoriginal. The movie is full of shallow and shallow characters.

From female detectives to gay men in San Francisco, the way this film portrays serial killers is insulting.

The theory is that the killer is copying famous serial killers of the 20th century, mimicking their killings down to the minute details.

Like the murders themselves, the movie is totally uncreative. Having the main character of a plot be copying what others have done is a shot against the film from the start.

Clues and evidence fall together too easily. Although it is necessary for all the clues to fit together the first time around to solve a mystery in 90 minutes, they came together too easily, making the movie hard to watch.

Copycat brings nothing new to the table besides a few more gory pictures of serial scenes. Hollywood is again trying to tell us that what we want to see is the guts behind the yellow police tape that serial killers will ever be able to cross.

But instead, it gives us another excuse to glorify killers and perpetuate the wonders of serial killers.

Although there are a few tense, armrest-grabbing moments in the film, there are not enough to balance the trite scenes that, unfortunately, make up the majority of the script.



Holly Hunter plays M.J. Monahan, a police detective on the trail of a serial killer in *Copycat*.



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Odd collaboration sucks the life out of *Vampire*

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

You would think that combining Wes Craven's talent for horror films and Eddie Murphy's talent for comedy would be like mixing apples and oranges.

You'd be right. *Vampire in Brooklyn* is Murphy's latest attempt to revive his fading career, and it misses the mark. The film is the part-comedy, part-horror movie that would be expected from the cooperation between Murphy and Craven.

Murphy plays Maximilian, one of the last vampires in the world who has rested in the Caribbean for most of his life. When Max finally gets lonesome, he hops a freighter to Brooklyn to look for the only other vampire in the world.

The problem is, Max's kindred is not totally a vampire. She is Rita (Angela Bassett), a Brooklyn cop and the child of a vampire father and a human mother. The vampire side of her has never been awakened, and Max wants to show her the dark side of immortality.

Max reaches the mainland and begins looking for Rita, using Julius (Kadeem Hardison), a local punk and newly transformed ghoul, to track her down.

When Julius and Max find Rita, the fun begins. Max uses all of his vampire charm and seductiveness to woo Rita, while keeping Justice, her nosy partner, out of the picture.

MOVIE REVIEW

Vampire in Brooklyn
Starring Eddie Murphy, Angela Bassett, Kadeem Hardison
Directed by Wes Craven
Rated: R
Showing at Post Oak
★★ 1/2 (out of five)

It all climaxes when Max faces Max. Rita is the prize of a ho-hum, predictable showdown.

Actually, almost all of *Vampire in Brooklyn* is ho-hum. The script has a far-fetched plot that does not seem to work. The punch lines seem forced. Murphy is trying to tack his comedy onto the film.

The film works best when Craven takes over and uses his horror sense to turn Murphy as a horror symbol, not a comic icon. The few scary moments are the film's bright spots and allow Craven a chance to shine in some of his own dark, brooding style which suits the film much better.

Murphy's acting is decent, but would have been better if he had focused on the horror aspect of the film instead of the comedy. Bassett is solid in a poor role and Hardison is the scene-stealer as Max's ghoul.

Murphy better not stake his career on *Vampire in Brooklyn*. If he does, his career might be as dead as Maximilian's victims.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

The Beatles did not die with Lennon

LONDON (AP) — Paul McCartney says he hates having to justify his place in the Beatles to people who regard the late John Lennon as the rock group's heart and soul.

When Lennon was assassinated in New York in 1980, he became a rock and roll saint to many Beatles fans. He was viewed as the creative, avant-garde songwriter while McCartney was seen as less serious and less important.

In an interview in Saturday's Daily Express, McCartney said he was the only bachelor Beatle living in London and experimenting with new music in the early days. The others were "very square" because they were married and living in the suburbs.

"The thing I find myself doing, which is a pity really, is trying to justify myself against John — and I hate to do that," McCartney said.

Man charged with stalking Campbell

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York man was arrested for allegedly stalking supermodel Naomi Campbell.

Michael Gold, 41, was arrested Friday evening outside the 25-year-old model's apartment building in Manhattan, said police spokeswoman Kathleen Kelly.

Gold was arrested after a doorman of Campbell's building noticed him and called police.

Campbell had filed a previous complaint against Gold, Kelly said. Gold was charged with stalking, which is a misdemeanor in New York.