

Latest Police Academy sequel worth a few laughs

**Police Academy VI:
City Under Siege** ★★
Famous Players Capitol Square

review by Cathy Duong

The *Police Academy* clan has somehow wound up in the same predicament as the likes of *Friday the 13th*, *Beverly Hills Cop* and *Nightmare on Elm Street*: their endless sequels keep becoming box office hits. The

Watching these policemen on duty is both maddening and hilarious.

sequels to *Police Academy* have been filmed annually for the past five years and the latest, *City Under Siege*, continues the tradition of nutball comedy.

The director of *City Under Siege* even says "I wasn't looking for intellectual literary wit... I had to go back to the world of physical comedy, to invent things people haven't seen yet. There are certain gags you want to do because audiences are expecting to see them and will be disa-

ppointed if they don't."

The reason the sequels are successful is inexplicable. Perhaps the die-hard fans flock to the theatres to see the same old gags they love or maybe to see the development of their favourite characters to see how Jones expands his repertoire of vocal effects and how many people or animals Tackleberry injures this time.

City Under Siege is about a hideous trio called The Wilson Heights Gang who terrorize L.A. The gang, consisting of the gargantuan Ox, the agile Flash and Marksman Ace, is really scary; they play with water guns and exploding cigars. Led by an evil person named the Mastermind, the gang commit their crimes along the number 52 bus route. These thieves outsmart our *Police Academy* graduates under the leadership of Commandant Eric Lassard.

So we follow the adventures and foibles of these law enforcers as they try to solve the crimes. The movie has a "whodunnit" style because nobody can figure out who the Mastermind is. It didn't take long, however, before the audience could correctly guess the culprit (no it's not the butler), which shows the level of intelligence of the characters. Watching these policemen on duty is both maddening and hilarious.

Most of the gags in this movie are predictable: explosives, three-legged chairs,



All the gang from *Police Academy XVII...er...VI*. The formula still works, but just barely.

whoopie-cushion noises, etc. One notable scene involves a car chase with a humongous truck on high wheels called "Big Foot." Big Foot rolls over everything in a rampage, even going on top of other cars.

Each character in the movie has his own bizarre uniqueness and each manages to

gain a few guffaws from the audience. The movie lasts 90 minutes, which is fortunate, because the jokes cannot be funny for an extended time. If you are willing to part with six bucks and you enjoy the *Police Academy* brand of humour, this movie is good for a few laughs.

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