

# LETHAL WEAPON 3



When trouble befalls Det. Murtaugh (Danny Glover, right) a week before retiring, trusty partner Det. Riggs (Mel Gibson) steps in to lend a hand.

**T**he big and small screens have featured a number of popular crime-stopping duos over the years, including Batman and Robin, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, Simon and Simon, and Riggs and Murtaugh.

While that last pair of names may not exactly roll off the tongue, L.A.P.D. Detectives Martin Riggs and Roger Murtaugh have been among the most successful movie teams, nabbing close to \$75 million in North America alone from *Lethal Weapon* and more than double that amount from *Lethal Weapon 2*, making it one of the most profitable sequels in Hollywood history. They should be able to add considerably to that impressive tally with **Lethal Weapon 3**, a picture that reunites not only Mel Gibson, Danny Glover and Joe Pesci, but also director Richard Donner and superproducer Joel Silver.

According to the closely guarded script, the third *Lethal Weapon* finds Detective Murtaugh (Glover), just one week away from retirement, looking forward to finally

## THE RETURN OF ACTION FIGURES GLOVER AND GIBSON

spending some time with his wife (Darlene Love) and family (Tracy Wolfe, Damon Hines and Ebonie Smith). But lest Murtaugh get too comfortable with the idea of hanging up his badge, there are a couple of glitches in the way. For instance, a cache of illegal firearms has disappeared from a police lock-up, only to resurface in the hands of street-gang members.

And then there's a more persistent obstacle. After years of pulling each other through tough scrapes, Detective Riggs (Gibson) isn't prepared to let his longtime partner off so easy.

Considered to be the last in the series, **Lethal Weapon 3** will certainly be taking the trilogy out with a bang. A key sequence involves the actual detonating of the old Orlando, Fla., city hall.

Sparks should also fly with the return of Oscar-winner Joe Pesci as the scene-stealing Leo ("okayokayokay") Getz.

New to the *Lethal Weapon* ensemble are Rene Russo (*Freejack*) as a detective whose unorthodox style and method could give Riggs a run for his money, and Stuart Wilson as an ex-cop who uses his know-how for corrupt purposes.

The years between 1989's *Lethal Weapon 2* and **Lethal Weapon 3** have been kind to its stars. Gibson, in a dramatic change of pace, took a career risk as the lead in Franco Zeffirelli's *Hamlet*, and won some newfound respect as a serious actor from those critics who were seemingly unaware of his extensive stage background. With *Hamlet* following back-to-back work

in *Bird on a Wire* and *Air America*, Gibson took some well-deserved time off to be with his family.

Glover, meanwhile, has been working nonstop in the intervening years, on such diverse films as *To Sleep With Anger*, *Predator 2*, *Flight of the Intruder*, *A Rage in Harlem* and, most recently, Lawrence Kasdan's *Grand Canyon*, for which he received great critical acclaim. The 1990 inductee into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame is only just beginning to demonstrate his impressive range.

Likewise, Pesci has gone a considerable distance since the last *Lethal Weapon* outing, walking off with a best-supporting-actor Oscar for his portrayal of a terrifying mobster in Martin Scorsese's *GoodFellas* and winning millions of new fans as a bumbling thief in *Home Alone*. Most recently he received plaudits for his manic performance in Oliver Stone's *JFK*.

With Gibson, Glover, Pesci, director Donner and producer Silver pooling their respective talents, **Lethal Weapon 3** stands poised to be a lethal summer hit.

— Michael Rechtshaffen

