

Rush Hour: the ultimate popcorn movie

By Daniel Snyder
FEATURES FILM CRITIC

The "popcorn" movie has become an integral part of the American movie experience. Such formulated film extravaganzas are great for an evening of mindless plot and wall-to-wall action.

Rush Hour is a popcorn movie. Is this a bad thing? Not

That's where the action starts, including lots of chase scenes and a big shoot-out in a Chinese restaurant.

Tucker and Chan are great together. They are genuinely fun to watch and there is just something really funny about Chris Tucker taking Jackie Chan to Grauman's Chinese Theatre and saying, "Just like home ain't it?"



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necessarily. Could it have been anything else? No. Does it succeed as a popcorn movie? Yes.

When Hong Kong crime-lords kidnap a Chinese consul's daughter, Jackie Chan is dispatched to whoop ass. However, the FBI agents working on the case do not want some crazy Chinese fellow running around Los Angeles chasing bad guys, so they devise a plan to keep him out of their way.

They decide to stick him with an L.A.P.D. officer who will basically baby-sit Chan until the case is solved. Then enters Chris Tucker (*Friday, The Fifth Element, Jackie Brown*).

Tucker plays a rookie cop who is almost as dangerous as Chan but for different reasons. It's not long before Tucker realizes his job is going to be keeping up with this crazy Chinese fellow.

Soon Tucker decides to assist Chan in a separate investigation. They soon learn that the head of the gang is none other than Jackie Chan's arch-nemesis from Hong Kong.

Just like home!"

But *Rush Hour* comes across more as a Chris Tucker vehicle than a Jackie Chan movie, which is great if you're a Tucker fan. However, die-hard Jackie Chan fans will probably be disappointed. There are very few of the fight-scene antics and even less of the incredible stunts that made Chan famous.

At heart, *Rush Hour* is simply a Hollywood version of a Hong Kong action film with Chris Tucker thrown into the mix. The plot seems contrived, the movie is too long, and director Brett Ratner's generic cinematography is just straight-out boring.

With the majority of Chan's older films, you walk away remembering his stunts, which were always shown from several different camera angles.

With this movie, you will walk away remembering the comic routine: Tucker looking at Chan and asking, "Do you understand the words coming out of my mouth?"

By Duncan Dunn
FEATURES FILM CRITIC

It's not often that I get exactly what I expect out of a movie. On such rare occasions, I tend to walk away a little bemused. The latest movie to leave me feeling this way is *Rush Hour*. I got exactly what I bargained for when I bought the ticket: a non-stop thrill ride.

Rush Hour is the latest Jackie Chan action extravaganza. Chan's co-star in this one is Chris Tucker (*Friday, The Fifth Element, Money Talks*). The plot, as with most of Mr. Chan's films, is pretty simple. Chan plays a top Hong Kong detective imported to America to help find the kidnapped daughter of a Chinese diplomat. The FBI does not want him messing around in their investigation, so they pass him off on the LAPD.

The LAPD realizes that it is getting stuck with a lame assignment, so they hand it over to their resident screw-up, Chris Tucker. Tucker's job is to baby-sit the foreign crime fighter and keep him out of trouble. Once this premise is established, the action and comedy can flow with ease.

To be honest, I was not really looking forward to seeing this film. Sure, I love Jackie Chan, and Chris Tucker can be very funny, but I felt the movie was going to be a little too clichéd for me. Two of the biggest Hollywood formulas are in this one: the buddy cop and the stranger in town. I just had no desire to see the same movie plot rehashed once again, especially since Tucker's *Money Talks* let me down. Fortunately, there was a little more to *Rush Hour* than the previews suggested.

I must say that I was a little surprised by the way the writers handled the story. They could have very easily put themselves in "auto-writer" mode and churned out a script containing a lot of ba-

nal one-liners and insults based on the cultural differences between the two leads. Instead, they chose to get past that stuff early in the script and work out a more interesting relationship. Once they become comfortable

Of course, we don't watch a Jackie Chan film for humor; we want action, and Rush Hour delivers. There are plenty of car chases, kung-fu fights, and spectacular stunts to keep every action fan glued to their seats.

with each other, Chan and Tucker's characters develop a real chemistry. There is some genuine humor in this film, not just the familiar, tired gags found in most action-comedy films.

Of course, we don't watch a Jackie Chan film for humor; we want action, and *Rush Hour* delivers. There are plenty of car chases, kung-fu fights, and spectacular stunts to keep every action fan glued to their seats.

The mixture of high-paced action and witty comedy really makes this an enjoyable experience. It's a lot of fun to watch this roller coaster of a film unfold. Sure, it's not deep or particularly artistic, but that's not the point. With *Rush Hour*, you can just turn off your brain and enjoy the ride.

Studying, cont'd from page 4

work done. It's all about finding an area that suits your needs. Your best bet? Look for places that are out of the way and most importantly, absolutely nowhere near a sidewalk.

All of the following places are quiet and lightly traveled during most of the day. Try out different areas and see what works best for you.

Suggested places to read:

1. the art gallery
2. the lounge in Alumni Gym (near faculty offices)
3. the periodicals section of the library
4. the porch of Worth House
5. the Hut
6. benches that aren't near a side walk
7. under a tree

