



Harrison Ford stars as 'The Fugitive'



A distinguished Chicago surgeon, had the perfect life — a beautiful wife, a prominent

standing in the community, an expensive townhouse in an exclusive Chicago neighborhood. A perfect life, that is — until the night his wife, Helen, was murdered.

Dr. Richard Kimble is accused of his wife's murder in "The Fugitive," a tense suspense thriller based on the hit television series of the 1960s. The movie opens Friday, Aug. 6, at suburban movie theaters.

Harrison Ford stars as the wrongly convicted Richard Kimble. Tommy Lee Jones is U.S. Marshal Sam Gerard, his relentless pursuer. Circumstantial evidence mounts against the horrified doctor. When the trial is over, Kimble, though innocent, is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. En route to the state penitentiary in a prison bus, some of the other prisoners attempt to escape, causing the bus to careen out of control and into the path of an oncoming train.

At the last second, Kimble narrowly escapes certain death and begins an obsessive odyssey to track down his wife's real killer — "the one-armed man" (Andrew Katsulas) whom he alone saw.

But Kimble is now a fugitive. As soon as his name is discovered, he becomes the object of an intense manhunt led by Deputy

PREVIEW

U.S. Marshal Sam Gerard, a grimly determined federal agent who, with the help of his aggressive partner, Renfro (Joe Pantoliano), and a team of other marshals, has sworn to bring Kimble to justice.

Surviving by his wits, Kimble becomes a desperate man with no identity, constantly in flight. His only hope for the future lies in fighting the grievous wrong of his past — and time is running out as Gerard closes in.

Andrew Davis is the director of "The Fugitive" released by Warner Bros. Arnold Kopelson produces. Roy Huggins, who created the original TV series, and Keith Barish are the executive producers; Peter Macgregor-Scott is the co-producer. The screenplay is by Jeb Stuart and David Twohy.

Like millions of people throughout the world, Arnold Kopelson, the Academy Award-winning producer of "Platoon," and producer (with Herschel Weingard and Timothy Harris) of Warner Bros.' and New Regency's "Falling Down," was a fan of "The Fugitive" of the hugely successful television series starring the late David Janssen as Dr. Richard Kimble.

The show premiered on the ABC television network in September 1963 and enjoyed a four-year run.

The final episode, in which

Dr. Richard Kimble is accused of his wife's murder in "The Fugitive," a tense suspense thriller based on the hit television series of the 1960s.

Kimble corners the one-armed man and Gerard corners Kimble, was seen by more people than any single episode of a regular television series in the history of television until that time. Its 72 percent share of all television viewers that night set a regular series record, which was not exceeded until 13 years later, with the "Dallas" episode in which J.R.'s attacker was revealed.

"It has always been my dream to produce a major motion picture based on the series," Kopelson said. "The story is one we can all relate to; we sympathize with Dr. Richard Kimble, falsely accused of killing his wife. We know he's innocent and root for him to find the real killer."

"We're also infuriated with Gerard's obsessive pursuit of Kimble. Why doesn't he understand that Kimble is innocent and there really is a one-armed man?"

"The Fugitive" was shot over a 15-week period on location in North Carolina and Chicago. Filming proved to be a homecoming for Harrison Ford and Andrew Davis, as both men hail from the "Windy City."

Actual surgical rooms, a morgue and hospital exteriors were provided by the University of

Chicago Hospitals at the sprawling 102-year-old University of Chicago.

To prepare for his role as a physician, Ford spent several days with doctors at the University of Chicago Hospitals, making rounds and observing surgical procedures.

Director Davis and co-producer Peter Macgregor-Scott, working closely with special-effects expert Roy Arbogast and stunt coordinator Terry Leonard, devised what promises to be one of the most spectacular train-wreck sequences in celluloid history.

"The Fugitive" is rated PG-13 (Parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for young children).

Share your comments about "The Fugitive" and other newly released movies with your friends and neighbors on our movie page. Please limit your mini-reviews to 100 words and send them to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Attention: Keely Wygonik, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Or fax your reviews to her at 591-7279. Reviews should include your name, address and a daytime telephone number. If you have any questions, call Keely Wygonik, 953-2105.



WARNER BROS.

Action packed: Dr. Richard Kimble (Harrison Ford) races for the exit of the city jail, narrowly eluding his pursuers, in "The Fugitive," the Warner Bros. action-suspense drama about a man wrongly convicted of his wife's murder.

'Rising Sun:' Boring screenplay blurs stunning visuals



The makers of "Rising Sun" shouldn't worry so much about charges of Japan-bashing. They should be more concerned that their movie

is such a mess despite having as many things going for it. Among them: Sean Connery and Wesley Snipes, two of Hollywood's brightest stars.

Another bestselling novel by James Patrick Michael Crichton full of controversy and intrigue.

Director Phillip Kaufman, who has brought his art-house sensibilities to Hollywood movies for the past two decades.

Snipack cinematographer Michael Chapman, shooter of choice for Martin Scorsese and others.

REVIEW

Juicy character parts for Steve Buscemi and Harvey Keitel.

So what goes so horribly wrong? Plenty, but not at first. The opening scenes, with the ancient Japanese tribal drums underlying the good manners at a corporate party, have plenty of energy. Then "Rising Sun" quickly enters the land of the boring buddy movie whodunit.

Connery and Snipes play Los Angeles police detectives investigating a murder. The victim, a beautiful young woman, appears to have been strangled following kinky sex on a corporation board room table.

The Japanese bigwigs who own the new skyscraper where the murder took place want to avoid the negative publicity. They start to plant clues that Connery's "Senpai" (or wise older man) knows are too good to be true.

The story portrays American animosity for the Japanese, who are almost universally portrayed

here as sneaky and underhanded in their billion-dollar business conquests. Americans, business people or cops, compete in a constant game of "catch-up."

It doesn't take a genius to figure out who was with that woman on the table. How she died becomes another mystery, but after a while we don't care, sickened to the point of desensitization after seeing her strangled again and again on a clue-filled surveillance camera video.

Visually, the movie is a stunner, thanks to cinematographer Chapman, who employs a palette of deep reds. A standard car chase takes on the richness of time travel in "2001: A Space Odyssey" when colored lights shine in windshield reflections.

Snipes appears weighed down by the movie's endless chatter and the usual cop movie baggage of a nagging ex-wife and a kid in support. He shares the audience's desire to get on with the action.

The ever-wise Connery character, meanwhile, has links to the Japanese that make his motives

suspect — the only element in the film that sustains some mystery. Despite his thick brogue (which only gets deeper with age), Connery reads much of his dialogue as if it came from fortune cookies.

Even Buscemi and Keitel, powerhouses in "Reservoir Dogs," don't have much to do here. Buscemi's investigative reporter, dubbed "The Weasel" by police, is supposed to cause trouble by digging up an old bribery charge against Snipes, but it doesn't add up to much, just like so much of the movie.

Cary-Hirokyu Tagawa has an intriguing part as a Japanese millionaire playboy singing karaoke to Cole Porter's "Don't Fence Me In" in the opening scene. He also eats sushi off the stomachs of naked bimboes, one of many reasons why the movie should rile women as much as the Japanese.

The moviemakers try to appease both groups by inserting a Japanese woman (Tia Carrere from "Wayne's World"), an expert in high-tech video doctoring, who

helps the detectives crack the case. Not surprisingly, she also provides love interest for both lead actors.

Much of the blame here must fall on Kaufman, the director of "The Right Stuff," "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" and "Henry and June," who has always had trouble keeping his movies under two hours. He picked up the script when Crichton lost interest, inserting an overly complicated narrative device meant to hide the fact that the story is essentially a snoozer.

"Rising Sun" is now showing in these suburban movie theaters: AMC Americana West, AMC Southfield City, AMC Wonderland, GCC Canton Cinema, GCC Novi Town Center, Quo Vadis, Showcase Auburn Hills, Star Route Chester and United Artists Fairlane.

To leave a message for John Monaghan, dial 953-2047, mailbox number 1866, on a Touch Tone phone, fax him a note at 591-7279, or write him in care of Entertainment, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

FILM CLIPS

"RISING SUN"

Released by: Twentieth Century Fox

Starring: Sean Connery, Wesley Snipes, Harvey Keitel, Kevin Anderson, Cary-Hirokyu Tagawa, Tia Carrere

Directed by: Phillip Kaufman

Produced by: Peter Kaufman

Screenplay by: Phillip Kaufman, Michael Crichton and Michael Backes (based upon the novel by Crichton)

Rated: R (Restricted. Under 18 requires an accompanying parent or guardian)

Running time: 130 minutes

Rating (out of a possible four):

Key: Don't miss it (●) ● ● ● ●

Strongly recommended (●) ● ● ● ●

Worth a look (●) ● ● ● ●

Wait for video (●) ● ● ● ●



Murder mystery: From left, Wesley Snipes as Web Smith, Sean Connery as John Connors, Dakin Matthews as Professor Sanders and Tia Carrere as Jingo Asakuma in "Rising Sun."

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SHOWCASE BILBORN	SHOWCASE	SHOWCASE
SHOWCASE WYSLAND	STAR GRATIOT	STAR JOHN R. AT 18 MIL.
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