



Dudley Moore is an engineer who is unsuccessful at everything in "Best Defense."

the movies
Dan Greenberg

There's no defense for offering this kind of sleazy production

The "Best Defense" is offensive. There's no end to the criticisms justifiably leveled at this film, beginning with gratuitous sexual scenes on opposite sides of the globe, scenes intercut with the credits and with each other. In Southern California, Laura Cooper (Kate Capshaw) sneezes at the wrong moment, frustrating her husband, unsuccessful engineer Wylie Cooper (Dudley Moore). In Kuwait, U.S. Army Lt. Landry (Eddie Murphy) is bedding down a local belly dancer. Apparently Kate's sneeze heralds Moore as a loser while the belly dancer's reactions prove Murphy's a real macho hero. That's more than the rest of his performance does. So, how are Moore and Murphy, two such disparate comers, linked? Certainly not by their humor this time out. Moore is designing a crucial guidance mechanism for a tank Murphy is testing in Kuwait.

JUST TO MAKE it interesting, director Willard Huyck and producer Gloria Katz threw in a war between Iraq and Kuwait, venal defense contractors and their Pentagon contacts, the KGB and industrial espionage. The screenplay is based on Robert Grossbach's novel, "Easy and Hard Ways Out."

Since Katz and Huyck wrote, produced and directed "Best Defense," they bear the brunt of the criticism for turning out this tasteless trash.

On a Political Awareness Scale of 1 to 10, they get minus-7 for scheduling a war between Kuwait and Iraq when Kuwait is supporting Iraq in its war with Iran. Movies don't have to be true-to-life, but such divergence from reality is silly -- as is much of the film, where potentially clever satire of current political events turns to unpleasant, humorless ridicule.

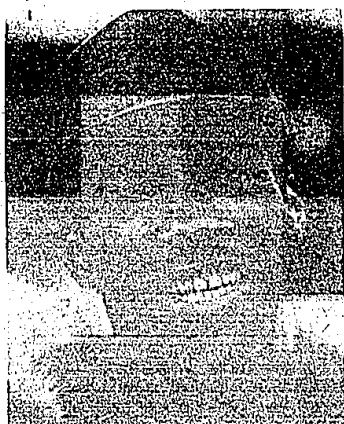
For whatever reason, all the characters are unidimensional and demean their real-life counterparts: The Arab soldiers Murphy is training are buffoons; the former astronaut, Frank Joyner (Peter Michael Goetz), president of Dytatech (where Moore engineers) is an utter incompetent whose only talent is entertaining Pentagon officials.

Moore's co-workers are no bargain either -- drinking buddy Loparino (George Dzundza) drinks and clowns while project supervisor Claire Lewis (Helen Slater) looks and acts more like a sex-crazed fashion coordinator than a project engineer.

The comic potential, obviously, is not well served by such characters. It doesn't help much, either, to get your laughs from four-letter words, but that seemed to be the only kind of humor Katz & Huyck could write.

AS IF THIS weren't enough, "Best Defense" is so poorly edited that the time sequence is very unclear, very confusing. Novice filmmakers learn early that cutting from one scene in one locale to another elsewhere gives the impression that the two events are occurring simultaneously. Unfortunately, Katz and Huyck missed that lesson.

Staying home and watching new paint dry would prove more entertaining.



Eddie Murphy costars as an Army lieutenant in Kuwait who is testing Moore's design, a guidance mechanism for a tank.

MINIMIZE odors in your refrigerator with a small amount of charcoal placed in one corner of the unit. The charcoal absorbs the odors quickly. Discard and replace occasionally. Enjoy maximum results when you want to sell something with an Observer & Eccentric Classified Ad.

LAS VEGAS CASINO
Air Conditioned
30% Premium on U.S. Money

CLEARY AUDITORIUM
In Windsor - Directly Across From Cobo Hall
THURSDAY - August 2nd - 8 P.M. 'Til 1 A.M.
FRIDAY - August 3rd - 6 P.M. 'Til 1 A.M.
Saturday - August 4th - Noon 'Til 1 A.M.
Sunday - August 5th - 2 P.M. 'Til 11 P.M.

Blackjack Tables
Wheels of Fortune
Admission \$1.00
All Proceeds to Riverside Minor Baseball Association
FREE Parking Available After 6 P.M. and ALL Day Sunday

DICK VAN PATTEN
In the new comedy "PASSENGERS"
ALL NEXT WEEK

JIM NABORS
in the "Jim Nabors Show"
SPECIAL GUEST STAR
KAY STARR
Week of ANN BLYTH
Aug 14 RICHARD FREDRICKS in the musical Kiss Me Kate.
313-239-1464

For Your Dining & Dancing Pleasure...
Tues: Stuffed Orange Roughy \$7.95
Wed: Live Maine Lobster 1 1/2 lbs. \$10.80
Opening July 31st Tues.-Sat.
Dennis Rome Trio
JAKK'S
RESTAURANT & COCKTAILS
2324 Greenfield North of 10 Mile
967-9822

With the Appearance of...
Mickie Pliska Reception Artist and Pianist
THE JAZZ SOCIETY OF THE HEALTH SPA
22241 Orchard Lake Rd.
In the Mt. Lebanon Plaza District, 12.5 Miles from Farmington Hills
533-2899
SHOGUN ORIENTAL HEALTH SPA
23100 Telegraph Rd.
North of 10 Mile
356-7310
Monday-Saturday 10-2 A.M.

BANQUETS
Beautiful facilities for Wedding Receptions, Bridal Showers, Bar Mitzvahs, Bat Mitzvahs and every other important occasion.
Accommodating Meetings and Seminars from 5 to 500.
Banquet offices open week nights and weekends for your convenience.
Kingsley Inn
WOODWARD AT LONG LAKE ROAD
BIRMINGHAM HILLS, ALABAMA

jacques
proudly presents
"THE PERFECT EVENING"
LOBSTER, WINE and ROSES
...Maine lobster dinner, including house salad prepared tableside, vegetable d'jour and potato
...Enjoy a sampling of wine from Jacques private reserves and a complimentary glass of your choice
...Complimentary rose
\$1295
Monday thru Thursday
For Reservations Call:
642-1373
30100 Telegraph Rd.
North of Twelve Mile
Birmingham • 642-1373

CASA LUPITA
MEXICAN RESTAURANT AND BAR
DINNER FLIGHTS TO MEXICO FROM \$4.75-\$7.25
Take off for Casa Lupita for the finest in Mexican food at unbeatable prices. Dinners from \$4.75-\$7.25 Casa Lupita. It's first class all the way!
BEEF ENCHILADAS
STUFFED BEANS AND CHEESE SAUCE
\$4.95
KIDS UNDER 12, 1/2 Price
Sub Time Please Specify
2085 W. Big Beaver, Troy, Michigan, 643-7720