 originally released in a summer filled with terminators, bad boys, and furious cars, S.W.A.T. raises the fallen bar of blockbuster mediocrity back to its original height. This remake of the 1970’s television show of the same name follows actors Colin Farrell and Samuel L. Jackson as members of L.A.’s elite Special Weapons And Tactics squad.

Director Clark Johnson was given the controls after primarily working with television dramas such as “NYPD Blue” and “The Shield.” He responded with a film that is split into two pieces. Character development and intense combat training fill the screen for the first half. The squad receives its instructions and uses its newly found skills to thwart the bad guys in the second.

The movie begins with an intense hostage situation that does not go as planned. Farrell’s character, appropriately named Jim Street, and his partner Brian Gamble, played surprisingly well by Jeremy Renner, are reprimanded by their superiors and taken off S.W.A.T. Street is assigned to transport internation-al mega-criminal Alex Montel. He has offered a $100 million reward to anyone who can free him from custody. This provokes the entire organized criminal underworld, and L.A.’s task forces are bombarded in their repeated attempts to trans-port him. LAPD can’t cut it, so Honda and his finely-tuned group of special tactics boys and girls take the job. The supporting actors, including L. L. Cool J,

With the department facing productivity problems, old-school Dad, Hondo Harrelson is brought back, despite his question-able attitude and tactics, to assemble a new crew and turn them into L.A.’s new superheroes, a role that Samuel L. Jackson fills perfectly. Naturally, Hondo sees something in Street where others don’t and invites him about his team.

After meandering and weaving through several never concluded boy-girl subplots and the rigorous training exercises, the story continues as the team is assigned to transport international- mega-criminal Alex Montel. He has offered a $100 million reward to anyone who can free him from custody. This provokes the entire organized criminal underworld, and L.A.’s task forces are bombarded in their repeated attempts to transport him. LAPD can’t cut it, so Honda and his finely-tuned group of special tactics boys and girls take the job. The supporting actors, including L. L. Cool J, and Samuel L. Jackson.

S.W.A.T. is Columbia Pictures’ action thriller starring actors Colin Farrell and Samuel L. Jackson.

Josh Charles, and Michelle Rodriguez get plenty of screen time and make good use of it, adding to the team-feel that the movies trying to make.

Familiar but redundant good guy vs. bad guy plot lines, the right amount of explosions, and cool car-piece radios fulfill general action movie requirements. Combine this with above average amounts of intelligent dialogue and twists for the genre and one has a film that will entertain for the two hours the audience asks of it.

Gundy answered questions after the reading on topics such as what poets he found inspiring and what makes a Mennonite writer. The latter he deferred as a complicated question worthy of graduate students.

When asked about other writing plans, Gundy said he enjoyed getting lost in the worlds of Science Fiction novels, but he considers himself “too close to ADD” to write fiction himself.

He compared this problem to the example of an Argentinean writer who wrote three-page commentaries on imaginary books so that he could capture the ideas without investing the time it would take to write a novel.

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