

Movie Review

Die Hard 2 is a very satisfying sequel

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

Bruce Willis returns as the heroic and witty John McClane, the cop with a talent for being in the wrong place at the right time. This time he's an L.A.P.D. officer, only he's in Washington to spend Christmas with his in-laws. His wife is coming in late from a business trip, and he's gone to Dulles airport to await her arrival. Sure enough, this is the day a group of renegade mercenaries decide to hold the airport hostage

in order to free a Noriega-like dictator from his captors, the American government. 'Why,' McClane muses as he crawls through the venting system, 'can't I have a normal Christmas with egg nog and presents?' The action is hard and fast, with no violence spared and no death too small to be lingered over. The bad guys don't have the same sexual/intellectual appeal as the first film (Alan Rickman and Alexander Godunov were the best part

of the movie), but Bill Sadler is suitably sadistic as Colonel Stewart. Bonnie Bedelia returns as Holly, John's wife, and this time she is far less irritating. Reginald Veljohnson reprises his old role as an L.A. cop for a few minutes. Willis himself is very charming and totally believable. All his most annoying mannerisms are well hidden, and he gives a winning performance. The movie interweaves a number of plots, kind of like the

Airport disaster films of the 70's, although the suspense is never toned down, and the strings hold together well. There are a few things that seem completely unrealistic - i.e., why would the government let Esperanza (Franco Nero) fly from South America with just one guard - but then the

whole movie is an exercise in suspended disbelief. The pleasure of Die Hard 2 is that you don't really think about these things as you watch, you're too caught up in the action to worry about anything. Die Hard 2 is almost as good as Die Hard, and certainly a very satisfying sequel.

Has anybody seen this Turtle?

ROCK ON



ETHLIE ANN VARE

Remember the Turtles, that good-time vocal group of the '60s? They had such hits as "Happy Together," "She'd Rather Be With Me," "It Ain't Me Babe," etc. Well, enough people remember them that Rhino Video wants to make a documentary on the L.A.-based band. The problem is, no one can re-

member where band co-founder Al Nichol was seen last. While Turtles Howard Kaylan and Mark Volman (otherwise known as Flo and Eddie) keep a high profile in the music industry, Nichol, the band's original guitarist, has flat-out disappeared. Flo, Eddie and Rhino are putting out a public appeal to locate the 45-year-old former popster. If you have seen him - or, for that matter, are him - call Rhino at 213-828-1980, and make him a star ... again. • M.C. Hammer is currently topping the pop album charts, the pop singles charts, the black album charts, the dance music charts. And with his new album deal, he is fast heading for the top of the Fortune 500 as well.

The triple-platinum rap artist just became the chief executive officer of Bustin' Records, a joint venture with Capitol. Hammer had started Bustin' as a small independent back home in Oakland, Calif. International distribution by a major record company puts it in another league entirely. The debut acts in Hammer's stable will be B. Angie B. Special Generation, One Cause One Effect, Parole and the Flat Ho - all of whom just happen to be showcasing their talents on tour with Hammer this summer. And did we mention an M.C. Hammer home music video is due in July? "With the growing demand for this style of music," says the savvy rapper, "the label is making its debut at a great time." • Jimmie Vaughan, co-founder of the Fabulous Thunderbirds, has left the band, leading many to speculate that he may be joining kid brother Stevie Ray Vaughan in future projects. The siblings recently finished recording their first album duo for CBS. • "Coast to Coast," Showtime's occasional series of live rock concerts, is televising its "American Music" special throughout July.

Stratford schedules director's workshop

Artistic Director of the Stratford Festival, David William, has announced the names of the five individuals who have been selected to participate in the Festival's 1990 Directors' Workshop, scheduled to take place in Stratford from August 21 to September 9. They are Jean Asseline, Directeur artistique, Mime Omnibus inc., Montreal; Toronto-based freelance director, Micheline Chevrier; dramaturg and director, Kathleen Flaherty; Edmonton director and playwright, Brad Fraser; and senior Festival Company member Scott Wentworth. The purpose of the Director's Workshop is to give five directors the opportunity to explore and workshop a classical text, with the full resources of the Stratford Festival available to them for advice, consultation and research assistance. Each participant will direct two scenes from Shakespeare on the Festival Theatre stage with members of the Festival Company. Specific sessions will be schedul-

ed in addition to workshop rehearsal time. These sessions will include Artistic Director David William on text, Head of Design Debra Hanson on design, Literary Manager Elliot Hayes on classical dramaturgy and editing for production, Producer Colleen Blake on budget analysis and other financial considerations, Vocal Coach Anne Skinner on voice and text and other senior staff and speakers on text, props and costumes.

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