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'Axe Murderer' flavored with haggis

By Lawson Oates and Dawn Wood

So I Married an Axe Murderer is a great romantic comedy with the Scottish flavor of haggis. Be prepared for some Scottish cuts.

Mike Myers is Charlie MacKenzie, a jazz-styled poet whose numerous failed relationships with women are the constant subject in his verse. When he finally finds a suitable partner, it becomes quite conceivable she is the notorious husband-hacker who is sensationalized in the national tabloids by which Charlie's mother swears.

Rest assured any movie with Mike Myers should not be taken too seriously, even if it does sport the odd chop. Myers is a Canadian-born comedian who made his name with Saturday Night Live (SNL), but is best known now for his character of Wayne Campbell. Myers

took Wayne Campbell to **Movie Review** surprised if we don't have

the big screen last year and was largely successful with Wayne's World.

Myers is his amusing self in Axe Murderer. His transition to leading role has been smooth, but maybe not as much of a move as would be expected. The character of Charlie MacKenzie shares some similarities with Wayne Campbell. For instance, Charlie doesn't seem to be all that emotionally developed, and he doesn't seem to have a job. His poetry diversion is like Wayne's Cable TV interest. Coincidentally, Charlie's 1970's Karman Ghia car is reminiscent of Wayne's Volkswagen Bug.

In addition to the lead, Myers also plays Steward MacKenzie, Charlie's father. When Charlie and Stewart are in a scene together, we usually see a stand-in for the back of Charlie's head.

Myers has a great, great time with this role. Don't be

a new lexicon from the Myers followers. Myers brings the Scottish brogues to new heights. The scenes are laced with Bay City Rollers sing songs. If that isn't enough, imagine Myers as the older Stewart MacKenzie singing Rod Stewart's Do Ya Think I'm Sexy, with a bagpipe accompaniment. Still in the Scottish vein of humor, Charlie describes all Scottish cuisine as a dare.

Although Myers is brilliant in his delivery of the MacKenzie father and son team, much of the credit belongs to the writer and screen writer, Robbie Fox. Though to what extent credit is due is a contentious issue between Myers and Fox.

Although Myers is the main staple to the comedy, he does not carry it all off alone. In fact, he is at times upstaged by supporting actor, Anthony LaPaglia. LaPaglia, who has genuine

comic talent, is Johnny, a dissatisfied career cop and friend to Charlie. The premise of LaPaglia's role is that he wants to relive the 1970's Starsky and Hutch TV series. He is unhappy in his work because he has never pursued any criminals in a high-speed car chase, nor has ever flown from a helicopter hanging from the landing support while on the trail of a felon. He wishes more than anything that his boss would chew him out. As his character develops, he dons a Serpico-style toque.

The main focus of Charlie's new love and fear is Harriet (Nancy Travis), the butcher shop beauty. She is happiest with a cleaver in hand. Travis is convincing as the would-be axe murderer, and generally keeps the audience wondering. She provides an anchor for much of the comic events that would otherwise take the story too far outside the realm of realism.

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