

## 'Tropic Thunder' Provides an Arsenal of Laughs

Contributed by Jay Christie -- Black College Wire  
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Hilarious movie brings in the big bucks

When it comes to superstar Ben Stiller, the sky is definitely the limit.

With blockbusters like "Starsky and Hutch," "Meet the Fockers" and "The Heartbreak Kid" under his belt, Stiller has proved time and time again that he can bring in the big bucks.

The same can be said about "Tropic Thunder," his latest film that has already garnered \$65.7 million according to reports on Entertainment Weekly.com.

Distributed by Dreamworks Pictures, Stiller not only stars as the movie's central character but also works behind the scenes as both the director and producer.

Stiller, along with versatile actor and funny man Jack Black and actor Robert Downey Jr. of "Iron Man" fame, lead an ensemble of characters that keep the action moving and the laughs constant.

A movie within a movie, "Tropic Thunder" centers on a group of rambunctious celebrities determined to make the next big summer blockbuster.

All three leading men portray dissimilar actors who have been united to catapult their film to box office success. However, their egos have posed a threat.

To that end, their director, who is played by the hilarious Steve Coogan, has come up with a plan - send the actors into an actual rainforest surrounded by hidden cameras that will capture their experience.

Naturally, things go wrong when the team stumbles upon a foul-mouthed, mean spirited, drug smuggling, military team who believe the actors to be members of the DEA.

Humorous enough? The acting is even better.

Stiller is Tugg Speedman, a washed up action star whose numerous sequels have been less than lucrative.

Speedman is a cocky and arrogant character playing opposite Black, who infuses his character, the cartoonish Jeff Portnoy, with both humor and a secret depression that make him rather relatable if not totally believable.

As multi award-winning Australian actor Kirk Lazarus, Downey does more than play a character - he transforms himself quite literally.

Playing an actor who is portraying an African-American military man, Downey's face has been painted brown and he wears a black wig and brown contacts to become a black man. The results are undoubtedly comical.

A slew of other famous Hollywood faces turn up in the movie as well, including the suave and dashing Matthew McConaughey as Speedman's suave and dashing agent; Nick Nolte as an old veteran; and Tom Cruise who is practically unrecognizable as a wealthy studio executive.

Together, they round out the talented cast and help make the film even funnier than it already is. When it comes to laughs and thrills, "Tropic Thunder" is sure to deliver both and that makes for a perfect night at the movies.

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Jay Christie writes for The Famuan, the Florida A&M student newspaper, which originally published this article.