

Red Review

Red is a fun, light-hearted action comedy

With a cast as fantastic as the one on display in October release *Red*, it is hard not to be charmed by the film. Movie veterans Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, Helen Mirren, and John Malkovich are all present and seem to be having a lot of fun taking a break from their usual, more serious roles here. *Red* revolves around former CIA agent Frank Moses, played by Willis. Moses used to be one of the agencies top operatives, but has now settled into a suburban, idyllic lifestyle that is so peaceful it threatens to bore him into a comatose state. The only real excitement left in his life is his weekly phone calls with Sarah (Mary-Louise Parker), a customer service agent for his pension office. This soon changes, however, when a hit squad raids his house at night and he is forced to defend himself. Moses learns that he has been labeled “RED” by his former employers, meaning “Retired and Extremely Dangerous”, and is now being targeted along with several of his old friends for information they possess about an operation that occurred years ago. Moses decides, after “kidnapping” Sarah to protect her, to go about reassembling his old team including Joe (Freeman), Marvin (Malkovich) and Victoria (Mirren) to join him on a country wide mission to stop the threats against their lives and uncover the true reason for these attacks. The film itself was adapted from a comic book mini-series of the same name by screenwriters Jon and Erich Hoeber, who shift the comic’s serious tone to a more humorous one and even add several characters to the mix to help make the series work on film. Director Robert Schwentke (*Flightplan*, *The Time-Traveller’s Wife*) does a solid job here, fluidly depicting several regions of the country and showing a strong handle on both the action and comedic elements in his film. As mentioned above, all the actors do great work here, elevating what could have been a throwaway, generic picture into something much more entertaining and enjoyable. The plot is appropriately ludicrous for a blockbuster action film, but let’s be honest: you aren’t going for the story. You’re going for the amazing cast, the big laughs and the butt-kicking action and thrills. Academy Awards this film is not. I guarantee, however, that it will make a great date movie and that you will have a wonderful time watching these older actors prove they still have some serious fight in them. Verdict: B