

Annapolis

Contributed by The Diva
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Rated PG-13; running time of 1 hour and 48 minutes

Genre: ummmmm Sports Drama?
 Written by: Dave Collard

Directed by: Justin Lin

Cast: James Franco, Tyrese Gibson, Jordana Brewster, Donnie Wahlberg, Vicellous Reon Shannon, Roger Fan, Wilmer Calderon

WARNING - SPOILERS BELOW. The Digest

Jake Huard (James Franco) is from a small and tight-knit blue collar community in Baltimore. Since his mother died when he was a child, he has been raised by his emotionally unavailable father. Even though they have a tense relationship, Jake works under his father at the shipyard building naval ships. Each day, Jake looks across the river and yearns to keep a promise he made to his mother, attending Annapolis and becoming a naval academy.

That promise is what drives him to bug a congressman for 32 days straight to get a recommendation to the Academy. Each year about 50,000 apply and only 1,200 make it and he wants one of those spots. Lieutenant Commander Burton (Donnie Wahlberg) seeks out Jake on the sly and watches him work and fight as an amateur in boxing matches. He thinks that Jake will be a great leader and helps usher him into the Academy.

His elation comes to a screeching halt when he meets his drill instructor, Cole (Tyrese Gibson). Cole. Cole joined the Marines after high school and made it through the ranks through determination and hard work. He has no tolerance for these young cadets who come in as officers when they graduate, yet have no practical experience. This is his motivation for being so hard on them – Jake in particular.

He finds himself part of a motley crew;. Twins (Vicellous Reon Shannon) an overweight and out-of-shape young man who is the great black hope for his community;. Loo (Roger Fan) (who is kinda hot, if you ask me) is a know-it-all who has integrity, but no loyalty; Estrada (Wilmer Calderon) who becomes the racial punching bag for his superiors and finally Ali (Jordana Brewster) a little tiny whip of a thing who is also his superior.

It is through this group he finds the strength to succeed in the Brigades – the campus boxing matches. He has the physical strength to handle the boxing, but does he have enough emotional strength to handle being in the Academy?
 The Dish

Oh lord, where do I begin? What a mess. The main problem with this movie is that it can't decide what kind of movie it wants to be. I think it would have been an amazing story had it pick one. Any 1 of the 3 would have been just dandy. A boxing movie; a coming of age movie; or a movie about the Academy. I felt like Monty Hall – “Pick one. Any one.” I wanted so much to walk away happy. I really did, but half-way through I started to feel duped. I really enjoyed speaking with the director and the writer, but I think the fault does lay almost solely on them. I just don't think that either one of them was able to find their way and we're present with a confusing mess because of it. One thing that really puzzled me was Tyrese's character. They were acting like he spit on a pilgrim and slapped their momma. He just wasn't mean enough to elicit the response he got. I wanted to just hate him

like Sarge from A Soldier's Story or homeboy from Full Metal Jacket. Had he been like that, then yes I would have risked my position in the Academy by punching him in the head. Just cuss him out and spend 2 nights in the brig and be done with it. Jake was so angry and I just never got a sense as to why the stuff they he went through made him so mad. I'm not talking about the loss of his mother. That would effect anyone, but it just seemed like the story was blaming his issues on other problems and those problems were teeny tiny.

The Directive

Move along. Nothing to see here.

3BC Ratings

Don't fall for the rope a dope.