



The Transporter 2

Running time: 88 minutes
MPAA rating: PG-13

"Transporter 2" star Jason Statham should be the next James Bond. He's British, looks great in a suit, is an amazing fighter, and he can propel a car at breakneck speeds over any terrain — even through buildings.

OK, Statham doesn't actually do that in real life, but his character, Frank Martin, sure can, and boy-oh-boy is it a hoot to watch.

In "Transporter 2," Martin and his tricked-out Audi A6 are assigned to chauffeur the Drug Enforcement Chief's young son (Hunter Clary) to and from school. An Evil Dude named Gianni (Alessandro Gassman) kidnaps the boy and injects the child with a deadly virus. Gianni's plan is that the

boy will infect his father, who will then infect all the bigwigs attending an international anti-drug conference.

Martin races against time to save the boy while evading the police, who think he's in on the crime, and dealing with assorted thugs and an Uzi-toting Lingerie Model.

Sure, it's a goofy plot, but I don't care. The stunts — both automotive and martial-artsy — are such a breathless joy to watch that I just stopped caring about whether the movie made sense or not. Worrying about the plot of "Transporter 2" is like trying to find deeper meaning in a roller coaster. Just enjoy the ride.

The fights were choreographed by Hong Kong movie legend Corey Yuen, who also directed the original Transporter film, and the film was directed by Louis Leterrier, who served as artistic director in the first film. Leterrier does a fantastic job of showing us the action without any artsy-fartsy camera tricks, shaky cams or choppy, quick edits. He lets the action, not the editor, do the talking.

If you're a fan of great action films and don't want to spend any time thinking about plot, then "The Transporter 2" should definitely be at the top of your

Must-See List. GRADE: B+

Sneak preview

The late-fall/early holiday-season lineup looks promising. It's a refreshing mix of romance and action films, along with a healthy dose of character-driven stories and extravaganzas. Here are a few films you should keep an eye peeled for:

OCTOBER

Elizabethtown (Orlando Bloom, Kirsten Dunst) — Bloom plays a guy whose world completely falls apart. Then he meets a stewardess (Dunst) who hands him a mix tape that sends Bloom traveling cross-country to find meaning in his life. (Oct. 14)

Domino (Keira Knightley, Mickey Rourke) — Knightley stars as Domino Harvey, daughter of actor Laurence Harvey, who gives up the Beverly Hills lifestyle to become a fashion model, and later, a bounty hunter. (Oct. 14)

Shopgirl (Steve Martin, Claire Danes) — Based on Martin's best-selling novel, Danes stars as the titular shopgirl who is caught in a romantic tug-of-war between an older man (Martin) and his younger roommate (Jason Schwartzman). (Oct. 21)

The Legend of Zorro (Antonio Banderas, Catherine Zeta-Jones) — Banderas returns as swashbuckling vigilante Zorro in this sequel to the 1998 hit. (Oct. 28)

NOVEMBER

Chicken Little (Zach Braff, Joan Cusack) — Disney tries its hand at computer animation with this tale of a little chick that is convinced there is terror coming from the skies. (Nov. 4)

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson) — We return for a fourth time to Hogwarts Academy as Harry Potter and Co. solve another mystery and Harry participates in a wizarding tournament. (Nov. 18)

EARLY DECEMBER

Aeon Flux (Charlize Theron) — Theron stars in this live-action adaption of the short-lived MTV sci-fi cartoon about a hot-chick assassin in the 25th century. (Dec. 2)

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe — Disney hopes to have a "Lord of the Rings" franchise of its own by bringing C.S. Lewis' seven-part fantasy series to the silver screen. (Dec. 9)

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