

HELL'S ANGELS

STONE COLD

Directed by: Craig R. Baxley

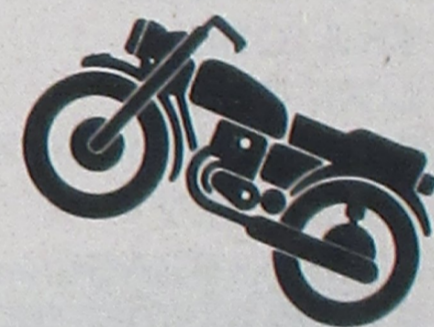
Starring: Brian Bosworth Lance Henriksen

This film would be better named Urban Rambo and the Predictable Plot. Brian Bosworth's motion picture debut never really gets off the ground. The action is spectacular, Boz surpasses the minimal expectations for his acting abilities, and Lance Henriksen is an enjoyable villain, but the film is simply lacking the distinction and integrity of a serious one. Stone Cold starts off well with the tough cop John Stone nonchalantly stalking armed robbers in a grocery store. This is a funny sequence and opens the movie on a high point (which turns out to be the only high point). From there Stone returns home to his pet Komodo dragon for a couple amusing domestic scenes in his apartment. This is when the plot thickens, and ultimately the movie thinnens. Whatever wit, charm, and interest Baxley pretends the movie has in the first fifteen minutes then disappears forever. Stone is assigned to work undercover and infiltrate a very menacing biker gang, the Brotherhood, in hopes discontinue their plans to ice Mississippi lawmakers. This stereotyped biker gang, with the exception of the small circle of leaders, is supposed to be the epitome evil and wild, reckless organization. However, they come across as a group of armed, overweight bums. As soon as Stone begins his undercover assignment, the story becomes familiar and predictable. Nothing is original about the mission. It is the typical cop goes undercover saga: cop meets gang, cop successfully gets in cahoots with the leader of the gang (Henriksen), cop becomes one of the leader's right hand men in a couple days, cop is found out by leader's other right hand man, blah blah blah. This is precisely what occurs in New Jack City, Undercover, and most cop-busts-drug-dealer movies (though drugs aren't an issue here). As well Stone Cold shares similarities with the Die Hard's. Boz has fights on moving aircraft and is forced to jump off and he also runs around a huge building trying to save hostages from terrorists. Craig R. Baxley directs each and every scene with equal dramatic importance.

Each one (less those in the first ten minutes) is directed and shot with an absurd amount of seriousness. Nothing exists to lighten the mood. All the comic relief over with in a hurry. However, despite his obvious shortcomings, Baxley (who is credits include Action Jackson and I Come In Peace) does have a gift in putting the action back in the term "action films". He shows his knack for high speed chases, vehicle explosions, gunfights, and blood. These are intended to carry the film since his movies' plot and characters are unable. However, the film is somewhat unpredictable, which is nice. Boz's girlfriend does get toasted, the Brotherhood is successful in their assassinations, Henriksen does shave, and Boz does manage to jump from a helicopter and land face down into a wall. Though Stone Cold has a second-hand plot, it is for the MOST part predictable (exceptions in the preceding paragraph apply), it takes itself too serious, and is nothing you haven't seen either Arnold, Bruce or Sylvester do a couple times each, it does contain very exciting action. And if action is what you seek, look no further. For \$2.50 of a rental your quest will end. Though this film will do nothing for Henriksen or Baxley, Boz's existing fan club will prosper. Don't be surprised if to see him in more movies.

GRADE: C-

review by Randy Burrows



THE GOOD NEWS IS IT'S TEMPORARY.
THE BAD NEWS IS IT'S FATAL.