



Film Review: *Hot Fuzz*

Director: Edgar Wright
 Genre: Comedy/
 crime/ action
 Duration: 121 min.



Hardcore copper Nicolas Angel (Simon Pegg) fights crime in London, and does a better job than any other policeman, eh, officer (he is not just a good officer, he is politically correct too). Still his superiors think it's better to send him to work in a small village, with the lowest crime rate in the country: he made them look bad, and we can't have that now can we? To make things even worse for Angel, his girlfriend tells him they definitely won't get back together, as he is married to his job (and his Japanese Peace Lily)...

Juxtaposing the big city and the tiny village provides perfect opportunity for presenting clichés, and especially village life is commented on. The batty old neighbour waving a gun around as soon as a stranger comes near, the close-knit social life, and the keeping up of appearances: they all seem to be mirror-images of the kind of Santa-turned-bad-and-stabbed-a-cop stories representing London life.

Although Sandford seems a peaceful village, its shady side comes out soon enough: there is an extremely high accident rate, which needs looking in to. Or so Angel thinks. The Sandford police think that he has simply become paranoid by his "London time." Angel and his new partner Danny Butterman (yes, he's fat), played by Nick Frost, start investigating all the same. Butterman is an oafish sort of guy, in perfect contrast with the civilised Angel (the type excellent with fire-arms but against their use). However, the course of events brings them together. Butterman helps Angel to relax, and to enjoy drama and "hot fuzz," while Angel helps Butterman off his lazy bottom to become a real police officer.

This film will remind you of *Stepford Wives*, *Scream* and famous action films, but most of all it is packed with British humour: it is slapstick, but in a British way. The very best characteristic of this film is that it has its moments of insight, as you get glimpses of the round side of the flat characters, but then it immediately returns to its over the top style. This way it holds your attention, but it doesn't keep you from laughing your head off at the final attack by the runaway swan... *By Merel Mookhoek*

(Last) Texas Column

Everything must come to an end: my stay in Texas, and now my column.

I will always remember the ice-cream eating contests on campus, the friendly people, the interesting courses, the beautiful campus. I will always remember seeing George W. Bush, Lance Armstrong, Sanjay Gupta, Michael Dell, going to the student nights at Cain and Abel's (student bar), being educated about the history of Texas, going out on 4th and 6th street. Just watch MTV's 'Austin, The Real World' and you will know what I am talking about. It is just so different from living in the Netherlands, you just have to experience it!

I hope that you have learned from my experiences that you can make your world so much larger than it is by going a semester or a year abroad. I have made many friends from all around the globe. That is not just convenient for me if I want to stay in Seoul, Sidney, or Los Angeles, but more importantly, I have made great friends for life.

fore I went to Texas, I did not know what to expect, but I am very glad that I studied there. Now

I know I have a much better understanding of what the Americans are like. They are interested and intelligent, and not ignorant as the rest of the world might think. I have been to the fattest parties, I have seen interesting people (mentioned above), met the coolest students (American and non-American) and I have become very independent. Studying in the USA made me realize that if you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything. There are many scholarships for you out there to make it work and many universities that have exchange programs with the University of Leiden.

So, my advice to you is: go and study abroad! It will not only improve your English, but there is so much more for you out there. I have never regretted going to the USA and I will return in the near future. It has changed my life and I am sure it will change yours if you do the same!

By Mariëlle Pack

Tip for scholarships: Google > dho fondsen.