

Movie tech

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TECH

Die Hard lives to see another day

Die Hard, the granddaddy of all action flicks, is back—and with a vengeance. Does it still have the legs to hang with the big boys?

Apparently yes, because in *A Good Day to Die Hard*, the fifth in the action series and first since 2007's *Die Hard 4.0*, the stakes are higher and the bombs and car chase scenes even more explosive.

Die Hard 4.0 saw John McClane, Bruce Willis' character, saving his daughter from cyber-terrorists holding her hostage. *A Good Day to Die Hard* continues with the parental theme, this time introducing us to John McClane Junior, a.k.a. "Jack," played by newcomer Jai Courtney. In the movie, McClane travels to Moscow to bail his son out of jail,

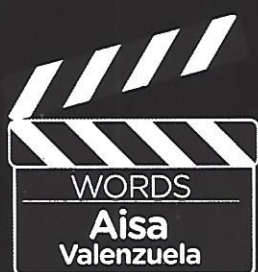
but gets pulled into the terrorist plot his son is somehow involved with. Soon, father and son are facing off against what seems to be the whole of Russia, causing major international mayhem and carrying on their shoulders the burden of saving the free world once again.

A Good Day to Die Hard has two new things going for it. First, it's set outside of good ol' U.S.A. for the first time, lending plenty of "fish out of water" moments for native New Yorker McClane. Second, the estranged relationship between father and son is explored, when in previous films Junior had only been mentioned or briefly shown. What makes the movie interesting is that the son is said to be even more badass than the father.

"He thinks his kid is a screw-up," 20th Century Fox CEO Tom Rothman explains. "But, in fact, it's the opposite. The kid is more like the father than the father thinks. So it's



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very, like all the best of the classic *Die Hards*, very emotionally driven and very kick-ass.”

Hmmm, does this open the door for *Die Hard* to live on in this new character even after Bruce Willis hangs up his bloody vest?

Cole Hauser (*2 Fast 2 Furious*) stars as the villain, a baddie named Collins. John Moore (*Max Payne*, *The Omen*) is the director, while Skip Woods (*X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, *G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra*) is the screenwriter. Mary Elizabeth Winstead, who played daughter Lucy McClane in the previous film, also makes a cameo appearance.

The elements are all here for a classic *Die Hard* film, and with shooting locations like Moscow (where the crew spent 78 days filming a car chase scene), the movie will not want for exotic scenery. Already,

the trailer promises us non-stop action, with cars, helicopters, buildings, and pretty much every other structure available getting spectacularly blown up. We also see John and Jack McClane running around, shooting machine guns, and jumping through glass windows.

“This is a good a day to die as any,” John McClane famously says in this film, clearly inspiring the movie’s title. With one more movie planned after this one (bringing the franchise’s total to six), it would seem the *Die Hard* series is in fact as alive as it ever was.

The film opens February 13 in the Philippines. (No chick flick movies on Valentine’s Day for this crew.)