

The Language of Film

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Film: Cop Secret

Director: Hannes Halldórsson

Stars: Auðunn Blöndal, Egill Einarsson & Steinunn Ólína Þorsteinsdóttir

Genre: Comedy, Crime

Run time: 1hr 38min

Rated: TBC

Rating: 3/5

Cop Secret



Cop Secret is an Icelandic action-comedy parodying the **high octane** Hollywood police films, where two rival cops have to team up to stop a mastermind villain only to get more out of their partnership than they bargained for.

Bússi is known as Reykjavik's super cop, he's prepared to **bend the rules** to get the job done and he's so tough he's even got his own TV show with highlights of him beating up the bad guys. His partner Klemenzenz is not so super and when they go on a high speed chase after a bank robber he becomes **hysterical** pointing out all the driving **infringements** Bússi is **contravening**. Their pursuit enters an off limits jurisdiction but Bússi is not giving up the chase so easily and on entering the neighbouring zone of Gardabaer he goes head to head with Hördur, a posey super-slick cop dressed in designer clothes and driving a flashy sports coupe. He's the complete opposite to the **dishevelled** and unshaven Bússi and despite their jibing exchanges of macho bravado the two end up having to work together. Their partnership has already developed in an unexpected way, bringing to the fore Bússi's conflicting emotions as he struggles with his masculine super cop identity and his strange feelings for the openly **pansexual** Hördur.

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The **backdrop** to the action is the day's hotly anticipated football match between Iceland and England's women in a World Cup qualifier. Besides becoming a central part of the plot, it is a notable inclusion in the script from the writer and director Hannes Þór Halldórsson that is a **tacit** reference to his previous career as a top international footballer (incredibly he played in goal for the Icelandic national side and here he shows his amazing **versatility**).

This Icelandic version of the light-hearted spoof genre parodies the small city of Reykjavik against the all action US cop films whilst flipping the traditional action hero's sexuality on its head. It can't match the explosive special effects of its contemporaries but for mocking silliness it delivers by the **spade load**.

Similar films:

The Naked Gun (1988): Dir: David Zucker; Starring: Leslie Nielsen, Priscilla Presley
Johnny English (2003): Dir: Peter Howitt; Starring: Rowan Atkinson, John Malkovich

Exercises:

A. Questions True or False:

1. Cop Secret is an action thriller from Finland? T/F?
2. Bussi is a cop who does everything by the book? T/F?
3. Klemenz is very calm in pursuit of the robbers? T/F?
4. The chase enters a different policing zone to theirs? T/F?
5. The cop in the other jurisdiction drives a flashy sports car? T/F?
6. That day there is a big international women's football match? T/F?

B. Vocabulary / Phrases Match

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. high octane | a. large amounts |
| 2. bend the rules | b. unkempt |
| 3. infringements | c. unspoken |
| 4. contravening | d. unfixed sexuality |
| 5. dishevelled | e. action packed |
| 6. pansexual | f. modify the law |
| 7. backdrop | g. law breaking |
| 8. tacit | h. disobey |
| 9. versatility | i. setting |
| 10. spade load | j. multi-purpose |

C. Discussion Questions:

1. What can you see in the picture?
2. Do you like spoof films? Why / why not?
3. Do you have any favourite American cop shows / films?
4. What do you think about the portrayal of male sexuality in action films?
5. Do you think the director should have stuck to playing football?

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1. He's prepared to bend the rules to get the job done.
2. Their partnership has already developed in an unexpected way.
3. It can't match the explosive special effects of its contemporaries.

(see webpage for download links).

1. Write an essay on the positive and negative aspects of masculine identity in film.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

1. F 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. T

1e, 2f, 3g, 4h, 5b, 6d, 7i, 8c, 9j, 10a

1. partnership 2. bad guys 3. unshaven 4. women 5. Reykjavik

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Listening Gap Fill

Cop Secret

Cop Secret is an Icelandic action-comedy parodying the high octane Hollywood police films where two rival cops have to team up to stop a mastermind villain only to get more out of their 1. _____ than they bargained for.

Bússi is known as Reykjavik's super cop, he's prepared to bend the rules to get the job done and he's so tough he's even got his own TV show with highlights of him beating up the 2. _____. His partner Klemenzenz is not so super and when they go on a high speed chase after a bank robber he becomes hysterical pointing out all the driving infringements Bússi is contravening. Their pursuit enters an off limits jurisdiction but Bússi is not giving up the chase so easily and on entering the neighbouring zone of Gardabaer he goes head to head with Hördur, a posey super-slick cop dressed in designer clothes and driving a flashy sports coupe. He's the complete opposite to the dishevelled and 3. _____. Bússi and despite their jibing exchanges of macho bravado the two end up having to work together. Their partnership has already developed in an unexpected way, bringing to the fore Bússi's conflicting emotions as he struggles with his masculine super cop identity and his strange feelings for the openly pansexual Hördur.

The backdrop to the action is the day's hotly anticipated football match between Iceland and England's 4. _____ in a World Cup qualifier. Besides becoming a central part of the plot, it is a notable inclusion in the script from the writer and director Hannes Þór Halldórsson that is a tacit reference to his previous career as a top international footballer (incredibly he played in goal for the Icelandic national side and here he shows his versatility).

This Icelandic version of the light-hearted spoof genre parodies the small city of 5. _____ against the all action US cop films whilst flipping the traditional action hero's sexuality on its head. It can't match the explosive special effects of its contemporaries but for mocking silliness it delivers by the spade load.