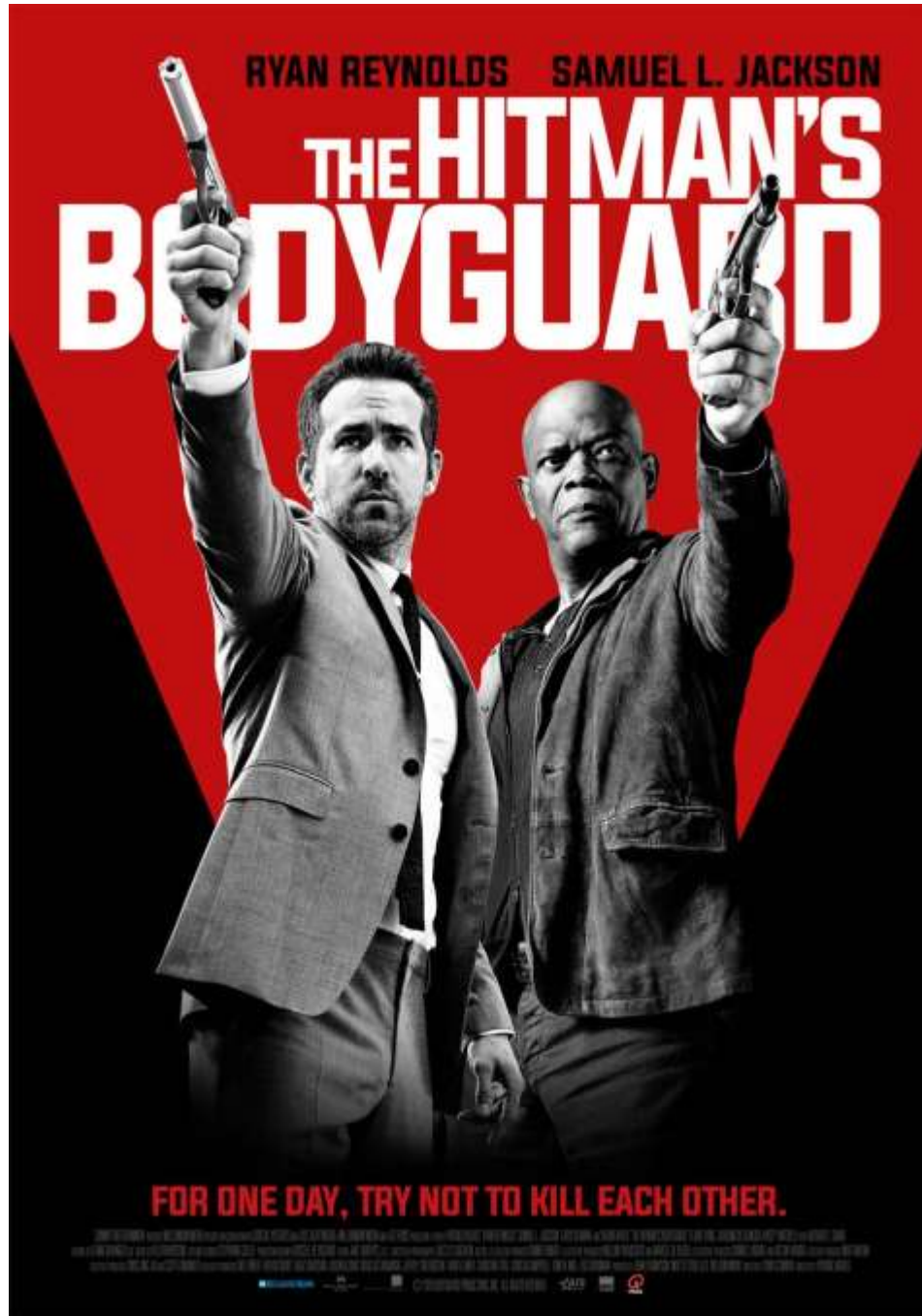




presents



releasedate Belgium: 23 August 2017

duration: 1h41
action | comedy

materials: <http://www.kfd.be/nl/pers> or <http://www.kfd.be/fr/presse>

SYNOPSIS NL

Als een belangrijke klant onder zijn ogen wordt vermoord, is Michael Bryce (Ryan Reynolds) zijn prestigieuze titel als een van 's werelds beste bodyguards direct kwijt. Om zijn 'triple A-status' weer terug te krijgen moet hij een nieuwe cliënt aannemen: zijn aartsvijand, de beruchte huurmoordenaar Kincaid (Samuel L. Jackson). Kincaid moet getuigen tegen één van zijn voormalig opdrachtgevers, de moordlustige Oost-Europese dictator Vladislav Dukhovich (Gary Oldman). De haat tussen Bryce en Kincaid zit diep, maar nu zijn ze op elkaar aangewezen om binnen 24 uur van Londen naar het Internationaal Gerechtshof in Den Haag te reizen terwijl er een ware klopjacht op hen geopend is. Bomaanslagen, schietpartijen en wilde achtervolgingen dwars door Amsterdam en Den Haag; alles wordt uit de kast getrokken om te voorkomen dat Kincaid een getuigenis aflegt...

production notes, foto's, trailer e.d. zijn terug te vinden op:

<http://www.KFD.be/nl/pers>

login: KFD_PRESS | paswoord: KFD_PRESS

SYNOPSIS FR

Un redoutable tueur à gages (Samuel L. Jackson) est contraint de témoigner contre son ancien employeur devant la Cour internationale de justice de La Haye. Interpol est alors chargée de l'escorter jusqu'aux Pays-Bas et engage Michael Bryce (Ryan Reynolds), le meilleur garde du corps du métier pour mener à bien cette mission. Mais c'était sans savoir que depuis des années, les deux hommes s'opposent : les voilà désormais obligés de s'associer pour tenter de survivre aux pires épreuves... De l'Angleterre à La Haye, ils vont vivre une aventure délirante, une succession infernale de tentatives de meurtre, de courses-poursuites pour échapper à un dictateur d'Europe de l'Est (Gary Oldman) prêt à tout pour les éliminer...

notes de production, photos, lancement e.a. sont à télécharger sur:

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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

"I have a job for you ..." -- Agent Amelia Roussel

Nearly everybody the notoriously lethal hitman Darius Kincaid (Samuel L. Jackson) has ever met across the globe want him dead – but that's only if Michael Bryce (Ryan Reynolds), the vigilant bodyguard recruited to protect him at all costs, doesn't shoot him out of sheer infuriation first. The hair-triggering rivalry and potential joining of forces between a high-flying, Triple-A rated hired gun and a protection specialist results in an outrageous, fast-paced action comedy that twists and twines the hitman thriller, the bodyguard romance and the odd-couple buddy comedy into one irreverently fun ride. Featuring a hilarious "bromance" between blockbuster stars Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L. Jackson, creatively choreographed fight scenes and exhilarating high-speed chases THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD offers a non-stop mashup of laughs and outrageous action.

The wild chase begins when Interpol strikes a risky deal with a newly captured Kincaid: if he agrees to be a star witness against the bloodthirsty Belarusian tyrant Vladislav Dukhovich (Gary Oldman) in the International Criminal Court, they'll free Kincaid's cherished, and not-to-be-trifled with, wife Sonia (Salma Hayek) from jail. There's just one problem: Interpol has only 24 hours to transport Kincaid from the North of England to The Hague – knowing full well that cutthroats and assassins will be lying in wait to hit the hitman the entire way to Holland.

Things go wrong right off the bat, as Interpol Agent Amelia Roussel (Elodie Yung) leads the prison convoy transporting Kincaid into an ambush. Determined to get an unrattled Kincaid to his destination, she calls on the only guy she knows who can protect the unprotectable: her bitter, burnt-out ex-boyfriend and former hotshot bodyguard, Michael Bryce. Once Bryce was at the top of the executive protection game, but after a job gone sour he's lost his edge. He has everything to prove, but zero desire to prove it with Kincaid. The two are not strangers. In fact, after a long career dodging Kincaid's bullets, the hitman's life is the last one on earth Bryce has any inclination of saving, let alone risking his own for such a scoundrel.

As the highly skeptical hitman and his completely unenthusiastic bodyguard embark on a race against henchmen coming at them from every angle, they unwittingly forge their own hilarious, awkward bond. They may not trust the other any further than their trigger fingers can aim, but their volatile mix of aggravation and admiration might just fuel them to band together long enough to reach the Hague, rekindle a romance, save Sonia and at long last restore the triple-A rating of The Hitman's Bodyguard.

Says Ryan Reynolds: "I love the bond between Bryce and Kincaid. These two guys couldn't be more polarized but as we move through the story they start to acquire begrudging love and respect for each other. There's a bromance and several love stories all wrapped up in this incredible, crazy action story." Adds Samuel L. Jackson: "Ryan and I go on a crazy fun jaunt through the roads of Europe – and it's full of chaos and humor between two characters who have a very unusual chemistry."

ROAD TRIP: THE LOCATIONS

As THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD careens in near-constant motion from England to The Hague, erupting into outlandish chases by car, motorbike and boat, the production spanned iconic European locations. The breathless road trip nature of the film gave director Patrick Hughes what he calls "an incredibly textured canvas to work with." In conjunction with cinematographer Jules O'Laughlin, production designer Russell De Rozario and Oscar®-nominated editor Jake Roberts (Best Film Editing, Hell or High Water, 2016), Hughes set out to capture the raw energy of live-wire performances set against an array of exhilarating stunts.

Much of the filming was shot in Bulgaria, which offered the production a wide span of landscapes able to double for the UK and Europe. Says Les Weldon, "With the resources available in Bulgaria, we were able to transform sets more quickly than almost anywhere else in the world. We had so many complex action sequences and the technical crews in Bulgaria were phenomenal in pulling them off."

More filming took place in and around the iconic Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, one of the globe's most breathtaking art and history museums, housed in a lavish 19th Century Gothic building. It is here that Kincaid leaves flowers so that Sonia can see them from her prison cell window. The art department even constructed a nearby flower stall where Kincaid stops to purchase the pink tulips. In Amsterdam's adjacent Museum Square, the production shot the scene in which Bryce drowns his sorrows in an open-air bar, whilst Kincaid fights off mercenaries, mixing furious action with a photogenic setting.

A favorite scene for production designer De Rozario is the bar fight that sparks the romance for Kincaid and Sonia, for which he created the fictional Cucaracha Bar from scratch. "It's a fantastic scene with Salma and Sam, and we built this amazing place out of neon signs and old American cars and it turned out quite painterly. When they shot it with all the stunts, it looked spectacular," he muses.

De Rozario filled his sets with all manner of quirky details, ranging from a colossal Caravaggio reproduction for the office of Richard E Grant's dodgy businessman, to latex mannequins for the Amsterdam sex dungeon, to a sickly green wallpaper for the safehouse where Bryce takes Kincaid, echoing Oscar Wilde's deathbed retort, "My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or other of us has to go." The funky van of nuns in which Bryce and Kincaid unexpectedly find refuge was another fun design for De Rozario – and as the cherry on top, De Rozario himself took the role of driving the van.

While chaos prevails on the trip, and the design reflects some of the madcap places Bryce and Kincaid wind up, De Rozario notes the entire production had to be designed like clockwork to come off without a hitch. "Designing this film was kind of like designing a 3-dimensional jigsaw puzzle," he summarizes.

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PRINCIPAL CAST

Michael Bryce RYAN REYNOLDS
Darius Kincaid SAMUEL L. JACKSON
Vladislav Dukhovich GARY OLDMAN
Sonia Kincaid SALMA HAYEK
Amelia Roussel ELODIE YUNG

PRINCIPAL CREW

director PATRICK HUGHES
screenwriter TOM O'CONNOR
producer AVI LERNER
..... MARK GILL
..... LES WELDON
..... JOHN THOMPSON
..... MATTHEW JAMES O'TOOLE
director of photography JULES O'LOUGHLIN, ASC
production designer RUSSELL DE ROZARIO
costume designer STEPHANIE COLLIE