R6248 THE ROCK (USA, 1996)

Credits: director, Michael Bay; writers, David Weisberg, Douglas S. Cook, Mark Rosner.

Cast: Sean Connery, Nicholas Cage, Ed Harris.

Summary: Thriller set in contemporary San Francisco. Marine Brigadier General Francis Xavier Hummel (Harris), a decorated veteran of covert operations beginning in Vietnam, is angry with the U.S. government for failing to honor those who lost their lives in such operations by providing benefits to their families. He recruits a team of similarly disaffected mercenaries, steals a battery of rockets loaded with nerve gas, and seizes control of Alcatraz Island, taking a group of tourists hostage in the process. He then threatens to release the gas over San Francisco if his demands for money from the government are not met. To counter Hummel, the FBI sends in Stanley Goodspeed (Cage), an FBI chemical weapons expert, and John Patrick Mason (Connery), a secret federal prisoner, who is the only man known to have escaped from Alcatraz. Mason is actually a British SAS operative who stole J. Edgar Hoover’s secret files, has refused to reveal their whereabouts, and has been held without trial for decades. Together, this unlikely pair, escorted by a Navy SEAL team, is to infiltrate “The Rock” and disarm the rockets.

[Reprinted in Film review annual 1997]


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[Reprinted in Film review annual 1997]


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