T7670  TROPIC THUNDER  (USA, 2008)

**Credits:** director, Ben Stiller ; writers, Ben Stiller, Justin Theroux, Etan Cohen.

**Cast:** Ben Stiller, Jack Black, Robert Downey Jr., Brandon T. Jackson, Jay Baruchel, Nick Nolte, Matthew McConaughey, Tom Cruise.

**Summary:** Comedy set in contemporary Southeast Asia. Through a series of freak occurrences, a group of spoiled, self-centered actors shooting a big-budget Vietnam war movie are forced to become the soldiers they are portraying. Speedman (Stiller) is the fictive action movie star with lots of films to his credit. While filming in Vietnam they stumble into a war with drug lords who think they are DEA. Stiller and cast believe there are hidden cameras and they are still in production making their epic film.

Alexander, Al. “‘Thunder’ and lightning: Downey Jr., Stiller and Black mock the establishment in action/comedy pic” **Patriot ledger** [Quincy, MA] (Aug 13, 2008), p. 27.


Ansen, David. “Ben Stiller made $40 million last year to act silly, but let’s get serious. What he really wants to do is direct” **Newsweek** 152/6 (Aug 11, 2008), p. 37.


Beifuss, John. “‘Thunder’ plays slapstick violence; Movie industry satire carpet bombs targets all over the map” **Commercial appeal** [Memphis, TN] (Aug 15, 2008), GoMemphis, p. X20-21.


Bloom, Bob. “‘Tropic thunder’ proves to be a witty comedy assault on Hollywood” **Journal and courier** [Lafayette, IN] (Aug 15, 2008), TGIF, p. 8D.

“Disability groups vs. ‘Tropic thunder’; As the premiere lands, protesters urge boycott” USA today (Aug 12, 2008), p. 10B.


Covert, Colin. “Movie review; ‘Tropic thunder’ pours on the excess; Ben Stiller declares war on sedate satire in this over-the-top comedy” Star tribune [Minneapolis, MN] (Aug 13, 2008), Variety, p. 1E.

“Cruise upset at photo leak” Film review no. 691 (Jan 2008), p. 22.


Erstein, Hap. “‘Thunders’ provide laughs with a leap” Palm Beach post (Aug 13, 2008), Accent, p. 4D.

Foster, Jason. “‘Tropic thunder’ funny, but not a classic” The herald [Rock Hill, SC] (Aug 15, 2008), Ticket, p. 4D.


———. “Movies/The director’s craft; Looking for action, he got it; ‘Tropic thunder’s’ faux war may be half the battle for Ben Stiller” Los Angeles times (Aug 10, 2008), Sunday calendar, p. E1.

———. “Stiller gets the action he was looking for” Los Angeles times (Aug 12, 2008), p. 2.

Lemire, Christy. “‘Thunder’s’ satire is funny yet forced” Wichita eagle (Aug 13, 2008), Wichitalk, p. 13D.


Long, Tom. “‘Tropic thunder’ starts out hot, ends up soggy” Detroit news (Aug 12, 2008), p. 1E.


Mathieson, Craig. “Film; Making war movies is hell” The age [Melbourne, Aust.] (Aug 22, 2008), p. 6.


McKay, Dave (see under Fritz, Ben)


Miller, Tim. “‘Tropic thunder’ aimed at Hollyweird” Cape Cod times [Hyannis, MA] (Aug 18, 2008), Life, p. 2.


Neman, Daniel. “‘Tropic thunder’ weaves funny with the unfunny” Richmond times-dispatch [VA] (Aug 14, 2008), Weekend, D2.


Paris, Barry. “‘Thunder’ struck; Stiller and crew are armed and hilarious in sendup of war movies” Pittsburgh post-gazette (Aug 13, 2008), Arts & entertainment, p. C1.


__________. “‘Tropic thunder’ should raise rumbles of mirth” St. Petersburg times [Florida] (Aug 7, 2008), Weekend, p. 11W.


Puig, Claudia. “‘Thunder’ rolls with laughter; War film’s the setting; Hollywood’s the target” USA today (Aug 13, 2008), p. 9A.

Rainer, Peter. “Movies/Essay; Race on its face, is still a moving target; ‘Tropic thunder’ in its studio-satirizing movie within a movie, brings blackface back. The controversy quotient depends on when you start keeping score” Los Angeles times (Aug 17, 2008), Sunday calendar, p. E4.


Verniere, James. “Movies; ‘Thunder’ struck! Stiller, Downey and company hit the mark with outrageous satire” Boston herald (Aug 13, 2008), The edge, p. ?


Wirt, John. “‘Tropic thunder’ s goofy satire hits the target” The advocate [Baton Rouge, LA] (Aug 22, 2008), Fun, p. 23FUN.