



Return of The Red Tomato!

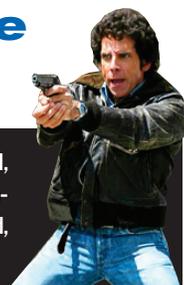
Though the 1970's buddy-cop TV drama *Starsky and Hutch* ran for only four years, "The Red Tomato" Gran Torino with the white stripe lives on as one of the most recognizable cars in TV history. Call it nostalgia. Call it nothing better to do. But the retro remake *Starsky and Hutch* will be hitting the big screen this month starring Ben Stiller as Starsky and Owen Wilson as Hutch. A comedy this time around, the plot follows the detectives as they're partnered for their very first assignment together. Some say this remake a big mistake. Others say they can't wait. You decide.



The Series



The Movie



Starsky: Paul Michael Glaser – The street-wise member of the duo, he had a cool car, good hair and top billing.



Starsky: Ben Stiller – Not sure he can carry off the cool, tough guy thing. Then again, the movie is a comedy, and Warner Brothers doesn't describe Stiller's Starsky as cool. Instead, they call him "overly enthusiastic."



Hutch: David Soul – Hutch was the better educated, more soft-spoken half of the duo. And what he lacked in hair he made up for in firepower: He had a .357 Magnum.



Hutch: Owen Wilson – He seems too dopey to pull off the brainy Hutch. But, then again, Warner Brother's describes Hutch not as brainy, but as "hazardously laid back." Wilson's hair also works for a movie set in the '70s and today. Points for Owen.

David Soul (Starsky) on the new Starsky and Hutch: "These guys are good, but they're not Starsky and Hutch."

Stiller on the original Starsky and Hutch: "My biggest memory of the series is just that they were two really cool guys who drove a really cool car."



The Wheels: Two customized Gran Torinos (some say three) were used. Each had a 1975 body with a 1976 chassis and a 460-cubic-inch Lincoln engine. Both cars had specialized racing suspensions and steering modifications.

The Wheels: Nine Torinos were used – two for close ups (picture-perfect cars with 430 hp, 351 Windsor engines), two for stunts (with stock 351 Cleveland engines), two for tow cars, one as a Mic-Rig (for complicated stunt driving with the actors in the car) and two more for elaborate stunts.



The Clothes: In 1975, those cats were cool. They were chasing criminals on the streets of Bay City and lookin' good doing it.

The Clothes: Sure those turtleneck sweaters, brown leather jackets and skin-tight bell bottoms were smokin' in 1975, but today, well, let's just say it adds to the comedy.



Huggy Bear: Antonio Fargas – The duo's flamboyant, street-smart informant could be counted on for vital information and comic relief.



Huggy Bear: Snoop Dogg – Not gonna even go there. Points for the realistic criminal look.



The "It" Girls: Suzanne Somers, Kim Cattrall, Melanie Griffith and Lynda Carter were just a few of the babes that made guest appearances on the series. Carter went on to become Wonder Woman – and every young boy's fantasy.



The "It" Girls: Carmen Electra plays Hutch's girlfriend, and Amy Smart plays a cheerleader who dates Starsky. While you wouldn't throw them out of bed for eating crackers, they're still no match for Wonder Woman.

Duo's Trust Level: High. "I know I can always count on Paul and vice versa," said David Soul.

"It's great to have a guy like David around when everyone is getting hot under the collar. He has a calming effect," said Glaser.

Duo's Trust Level: Low. "He didn't get good at driving the Torino," says Wilson about Stiller. "He loves driving the car, but he is not a good driver."

Says Stiller: "I'm trying to figure out what the problem is because I feel like I'm a competent, good driver. But other people seem to be frightened."