

# Marky Mark aims, shoots on target

Hollywood actor and ex-rapper finds himself starring in action film *Shooter*, a testament to choosing more compatible acting roles

## Movie preview: *Shooter*

Directed by Antoine Fuqua  
Starring Mark Wahlberg, Kate Mara  
and Michael Peña  
Opens Friday, 23 March  
Empire Theatres

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If you would have told Mark Wahlberg in 1997 that in the next ten years he would work with Martin Scorsese, produce an award-winning HBO series (*Entourage*) and become a father, he would've probably laughed and called you crazy—but he couldn't have called you a liar.

The former underwear model and rapper-turned-actor is enjoying the success that playing Sgt Bryce Dignam—his scene-stealing character in *The Departed*—has brought him. The film, the highest grossing of Scorsese's illustrious career, went on to win four Oscars including best director and best picture, and Wahlberg received a best supporting role nomination for his part. But just because his acting chops are finally being recognized, this doesn't mean it will affect the type of projects Wahlberg chooses.

"I've certainly gotten a lot of offers [for roles] since the Oscar nomination," Wahlberg reveals over the phone. "I certainly can't just start looking for, like, English period dramas and stuff that's going to get me nominated again."

His first role since *The Departed* is in the action film *Shooter*. Loosely based on the Stephen Hunter novel *Point of Impact*, Wahlberg plays Bob



Lee Swagger, a retired Marine Corps sniper. After the United States government becomes privy to information of an impending assassination attempt on the President, Swagger is brought out of retirement for one last mission. But there's a twist; when Swagger fires at the assassin, the President goes down and Swagger is

framed in the very assassination he was ordered to prevent.

*Shooter* might sound like a run-of-the-mill action flick, full of explosions and testosterone, but Wahlberg explains the movie harkens back to the action films of yesteryear, like *Taxi Driver* and *Dirty Harry*, where the focus was more on the character

than the body count amassed.

"The high intensity action movies that they've been making lately aren't really the kind of character-driven movies that I love and that I grew up watching in the '70s," Wahlberg says. "This is kind of a throwback to that. You've got a guys' guy who's all about honour and integrity, and it reminded

me of the great films that I grew up watching. It's much more of a Travis Bickle or, you know, Dirty Harry, than it is a Terminator-type character.

"For a good portion of my career, it was all about the filmmaker and we necessarily didn't focus on the part or the script itself," Wahlberg adds.

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# Test results positive for *Notebooks of Dr Brain*

## From *The Notebooks of Dr Brain*

Written by Minister Faust  
Published by Del Rey  
On sale now

SCOTT C BOURGEOIS  
Circulation PAL

At the end of the day when all the bad guys have been defeated, who's left for the Fantastic Order of Justice—the world's premier superhero team—to battle against? It turns out that the answer might just be themselves, and that the demons within might be their own worst enemies.

Minister Faust—a well-known Edmonton personality, ex-Gateway editor and CJSR host—tries his hand at his second literary foray, creating *From the Notebooks of Dr Brain*. The book is presented as a self-help guide for superheroes that have begun to unravel from the stress of their own overdeveloped egos. From the perspective of the world's leading expert on superhero psychology, Dr Eva Brain-Silverman, *From The Notebooks* follows a series of her sessions with the core members of the F\*O\*O\*J prior to the looming threat of the 16 July Attacks that serve as the climax of the novel.

The book is filled with wonderfully

developed characters, each with their own personal issues. From billionaire crime fighter The Flying Squirrel to the wise-cracking, wall-crawling Brotherfly, each superhero is a slick spoof of one of the archetypes we've seen a million times. We get to explore their characters through the psychoanalysis of Dr Brain, each one slowly peeling like an onion, shedding layers until we get a glimpse at the human being at their core.

Whether it's the nature of modern journalism and politics, to drugs, racism and vapid, shallow celebrities, everything's open game.

It was this collection of characters that made the book such a pleasure to read. It's shocking to see entire hours of time eaten up as the chapters flowed one into the next, and yet you'll be unwilling to put it down; you'll want to see what new revelations exist around each corner.

Much like the characters, *Dr Brain* itself is bubbling with issues deep

within its core as well. The work is rife with scathing social commentary and political satire. Nothing is sacred in the world crafted by Minister Faust. Whether it's the nature of modern journalism and politics, to drugs, racism and vapid, shallow celebrities, everything's open game. Most interestingly, psychologists themselves come under fire in the course of the story as it becomes clear that Dr Brain herself might not be the most objective narrator, and may have her own agenda.

Though it's hard to pin *Dr Brain* into any one particular genre, the story that plays itself out is something of a whodunnit style mystery, with black supremacist superhero X-Man at its core. A somewhat more original superhero, X-Man seems to borrow more from the author than any particular superhero archetype, but this just serves to make X-Man all the more relatable, as well as an easy character to follow through the plot.

Overall, *From the Notebooks of Dr Brain* is an excellent and highly recommended read. From beginning to end, the book serves up a liberal dose of comedic satire, while simultaneously sneaking in serious social and cultural issues, leaving the reader with food for thought after the last page is turned.

