

Copshop

Copshop is a 2021 American action thriller film directed by Joe Carnahan and written by Kurt McLeod and Carnahan, based on a story by McLeod and Mark Williams. The film stars Gerard Butler, Frank Grillo, and Alexis Louder, and is set in a small-town police station that becomes the battleground between a hitman, a novice police officer, and a con artist.

Copshop was released in the United Kingdom on September 10, 2021, by STXfilms, and was released in the United States on September 17, 2021, by Open Road Films. It received generally positive reviews from critics.

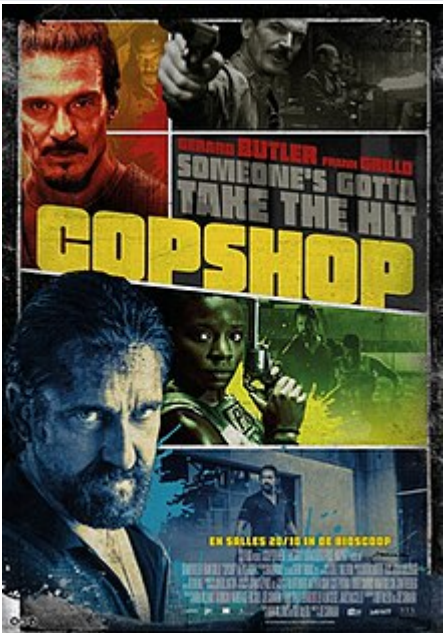
Plot

Con artist and fixer Teddy Murretto is on the run in a stolen unmarked police car, which breaks down not far from a Nevada casino. In the midst of a brawl outside the casino, Murretto sucker-punches rookie police officer Valerie Young so that she will jail him and protect him from his pursuers. One of those pursuers, hitman Bob Viddick, gets himself incarcerated in the same small-town jail by pretending to be drunk and crashing a car into the police car Murretto had abandoned, which was being investigated by two state troopers.

Murretto and Viddick are placed in separate cells, initially thwarting Viddick's plan to kill Murretto. However, Viddick has planted a small incendiary device at the station's entrance and when it ignites and the fire alarm goes off, he takes advantage of the confusion. Viddick beats a drunken man sharing his cell and incapacitates the police sergeant, stealing his gun. He is about to kill Murretto when Young interrupts him and returns him to his cell.

Young, determined to find out the truth, finally gets Murretto to explain his story: he was working for a Nevada casino mob boss and tried to buy off the state's attorney general William Fenton. When Fenton didn't cooperate and was brutally killed, it turned out he had recorded his conversations with Murretto. To save his own skin Murretto agreed to work with the FBI, which led the mob boss to send hired killers after him.

Copshop



Dutch theatrical release poster

Directed by	Joe Carnahan
Screenplay by	Kurt McLeod <div>Joe Carnahan</div>
Story by	Mark Williams <div>Kurt McLeod</div>
Produced by	Mark Williams <div>Tai Duncan<div>Warren Goz<div>Eric Gold<div>Joe Carnahan<div>Frank Grillo<div>Gerard Butler<div>Alan Siegel<div>James Masciello</div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div>
Starring	Gerard Butler <div>Frank Grillo<div>Alexis Louder</div></div>
Cinematography	Juan Miguel Azpiroz
Edited by	Kevin Hale
Music by	Clinton Shorter

While Murretto and Viddick trade threats, a new killer enters the police station—Anthony Lamb, a second hitman hired to kill Murretto. Entering the station with a bouquet of balloons as cover, he quickly murders several police officers and EMTs. Young discovers the carnage and retreats behind bulletproof glass to the holding cells containing Murretto and Viddick. In a hail of bullets, one of Young's own rounds ricochets and hits her in the abdomen. Corrupt police officer Huber, who has been stealing drugs from the evidence locker and has killed the sergeant (and the wounded drunk) during Lamb's shooting spree, reveals his betrayal to Young and joins forces with Lamb as they attempt to break through the wall of the holding cells.

Murretto and Viddick appeal to Young for the keys to their cells. Murretto manages to convince Young to hand him the keys with the promise that he will return with a medical kit for her, to the dismay of Viddick. Young releases him to go after Huber and Lamb. Just as two of Young's fellow officers are shot by Lamb after they catch him and Huber trying to break through the wall, Murretto arrives on the scene and attacks Lamb and Huber. Huber runs but Viddick shows up (having finally convinced Young to release him too), injures Huber by shooting at his legs and tasers him. Huber runs to a steam-filled shower room where Lamb shoots him by mistake while himself being stalked by Murretto. Viddick appears and then stabs Lamb and offers Murretto the chance to kill Lamb and avenge the death of his ex and son. Murretto instead shoots both Viddick and Lamb. Murretto returns to the battered doors of the holding cells seemingly to check on Young but instead pours gasoline all over the room, intending to light the entire station on fire and leave the scene, revealing his true nature.

Just as Murretto is about to leave he is confronted by Young, who has meanwhile attended to her gunshot wound. She threatens to put him back in his cell, but Murretto kicks a gasoline bottle and shoots it, lighting the place on fire. Young engages in an intense gunfight with Murretto and is finally about to shoot him, when another corrupt cop (Detective Deena Schier, the investigating officer on the Fenton case) arrives and shoots her instead. Deena is promptly shot by Viddick, who had somehow survived being shot earlier, who then also shoots Murretto to complete his contract. Viddick then helps Young to safety outside while advising her to “let it go” and then escapes in a police car.

While being taken away by ambulance, Young gets a radio dispatch about a stolen police vehicle from the station. She leaves the paramedics by the wayside, commandeers the ambulance and drives off in pursuit of Viddick, with both singing along with the same song on their vehicles' radios.

Cast

- Gerard Butler as Robert K. "Bob" Viddick, a professional hitman
- Frank Grillo as Theodore "Teddy" Murretto, a con artist

Production companies	Sculptor Media Zero Gravity Management G-BASE Film Production Raven Capital Management WarParty Films
Distributed by	<u>Open Road Films</u> <u>Briarcliff</u> <u>Entertainment</u> (United States) <u>STXfilms</u> (International)
Release dates	September 10, 2021 (United Kingdom) September 17, 2021 (United States)
Running time	107 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$43.5 million
Box office	\$6.8 million ^[2] ^[3]

- Alexis Louder as Valerie "Val" Young, a rookie police officer
- Toby Huss as Anthony "Tony" Lamb, a psychotic killer with a contract on Murretto
- Chad Coleman as Duane Mitchell, a police sergeant
- Ryan O'Nan as Officer Huber
- Jose Pablo Cantillo as Officer Pena
- Kaiwi Lyman-Mersereau as Officer Barnes
- Robert Walker-Branchaud as Officer Kimball
- Tracey Bonner as Detective Deena Schier
- Christopher Michael Holley as Officer Ruby
- Marshall Cook as Brad
- Keith Jardine as Trooper, a state trooper

In addition, the opening actor credits specifically include Ben Hoffman, who served as a Viddick stunt double, and Michael Morales, who served as the stunt coordinator.

Production

Development and casting

In September 2020, it was announced that Gerard Butler and Frank Grillo would star in the action thriller film called *Copshop*, which would be directed by Joe Carnahan. The screenplay was written by Kurt McLeod, based on a story by McLeod and Mark Williams.^{[4][5]} It is the first produced screenplay for McLeod, who works as a financial advisor in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.^[6] The most recent draft was written by Carnahan.^[5] The film was produced by Williams and Tai Duncan through Zero Gravity Management, Warren Goz and Eric Gold through Sculptor Media, Butler and Alan Siegel through their company G-BASE Productions, and Carnahan and Grillo through their company WarParty Films.^{[5][7]}

In October 2020, Alexis Louder was cast in the third starring role.^[8] Later that month, Ryan O'Nan, Kaiwi Lyman-Mersereau and Toby Huss were cast in supporting roles.^{[9][10]}

Filming

Principal photography began in October 2020 at Blackhall Studios in Atlanta, Georgia.^[11] Filming also took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico.^[12] On October 2, filming was shut down after three crew members tested positive for COVID-19 in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.^[13] Filming had resumed by October 5,^[8] and had wrapped by November 20.^[14]

According to Frank Grillo, director Joe Carnahan's cut of the film was rejected in favor of a different cut which did not include as much of his performance.^{[15][16]}

Lawsuit

Screenwriter Kurt McLeod entered into an agreement to option his screenplay for the movie to Sculptor Media, with the purchase price linked to the film's budget (2.5% of the budget, with a floor of \$75,000 and cap of \$125,000). Initially informed that the budget would range from \$3 million to \$10 million, McLeod later discovered that it had significantly increased to approximately \$43.5 million after Gerard Butler joined the project. In response, McLeod sued Zero Gravity Management in March 2022, alleging breach of

contract and fiduciary duty, accusing them of not disclosing the substantial budget increase and failing to renegotiate his compensation. However, on January 9, 2024, U.S. District Judge Fred W. Slaughter issued an order granting summary judgment in favor of Zero Gravity and its founders, Eric and Mark Williams, rejecting McLeod's claims, deeming it speculative to assert that McLeod would have received additional compensation based on the budget increase and emphasizing that McLeod had outside counsel during fee negotiations. Additionally, the court found that the Williams brothers were not personally involved in the deal between McLeod and Zero Gravity as producers of the movie. The legal saga also involved an arbitration with the Writers Guild of America over writing credits, resulting in credits for McLeod and Mark Williams for the story and McLeod and Joe Carnahan for the screenplay.^[17]

Release

Copshop was released in the United Kingdom and Ireland on September 10, 2021, by STXfilms and was released in the United States on September 17, 2021, by Open Road Films.^{[18][19][20]}

Home media

The film released digitally on November 23, 2021 and on Blu-ray and DVD in December 7, 2021.^[21] Netflix released the film on January 15, 2022 in multiple regions.^[22]

Reception

Box office

Copshop grossed \$5.2 million in the United States and Canada, and \$1.5 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$6.7 million.^{[2][3]}

In the United States and Canada, *Copshop* was released alongside *Cry Macho*, and was projected to gross around \$5 million from 3,005 theaters in opening weekend.^[23] The film made \$950,000 on its first day and went on to debut to \$2.3 million, finishing sixth at the box office.^[24] It was the second-worst opening of all-time by a film playing in over 3,000 theaters.^[25] The film dropped 45% to \$1.3 million in its second weekend, finishing eighth.^[26]

Critical response

On Rotten Tomatoes the film has an approval rating of 82% based on 110 reviews, with an average rating of 6.50/10. The website's critics consensus reads: "It doesn't add many new ingredients to the genre, but action fans in the mood for an old-school thriller will be happy to buy what *Copshop* is selling."^[27] On Metacritic it has a weighted average score of 61 out of 100 based on reviews from 22 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews".^[28] Audiences surveyed by PostTrak gave the film a 62% positive score, with 39% saying they would definitely recommend it.^[24]

Ian Freer of *Empire* called it: "A simple, effective thriller, *Copshop* doubles down on pulpy, '70s-styled fun. It proffers little that is novel but has enough vim and vigour to compensate."^[29]

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External links

- [Official website \(https://www.copshopmovie.com/\)](https://www.copshopmovie.com/)
 - [Copshop \(https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5748448/\)](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5748448/) at [IMDb](#)
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