

Film Review: Nicolas Cage, John Cusack Get Buried in ‘The Frozen Ground’

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on August 22, 2013 - 12:00pm

- [Brian Tallerico](#) [2]
- [Film Review](#) [3]
- [HollywoodChicago.com Content](#) [4]
- [John Cusack](#) [5]
- [Nicolas Cage](#) [6]
- [The Frozen Ground](#) [7]
- [Vanessa Hudgens](#) [8]



Rating: **2.0/5.0**

CHICAGO – There have been a depressing number of bad career choices on the part of Oscar winner Nicolas Cage and once-great actor John Cusack in recent years. Anyone seen “Seeking Justice,” “Stolen,” “The Numbers Station,” or “The Factory”? Someone owes you an apology. The latest entry that merges these two titans of recent B-movies is “The Frozen Ground,” premiering On Demand and in limited release tomorrow, August 23, 2013. With a strong supporting cast and a few interesting procedural elements, Scott Walker’s drama isn’t the disaster as some of the other Cage or Cusack bombs but it still fails due to some poor creative and casting decisions before a lick of film was even shot.

Based on the true story of a serial killer, “The Frozen Ground” is the story of an investigation that hinged, as so many of these often do, on the one that lived. Cindy Paulson (Vanessa Hudgens), a stripper and prostitute, escapes the grip of Robert Hansen (John Cusack), a man who we quickly learn has killed a number of similar girls across the Northwest. Hansen is one of those average-looking guys, a seemingly normal part of his community complete with a family of his own, who just happens to hire hookers and kill them. Investigator Jack Holcombe gets to Paulson and convinces her to help the police track this elusive killer. A remarkably talented supporting cast, including Dean Norris (“Breaking Bad”), Radha Mitchell, Kevin Dunn, Michael McGrady, Kurt Fuller, and even 50 Cent fill out this mystery-drama ensemble in ways that I’m sure looked engaging on paper. On film, it’s a different story.



[Read Brian Tallerico’s full review of “The Frozen Ground” in our reviews section.](#) [9]

There are so many ways that a filmmaker could tell the story of the capture of Robert Hansen. At some point, Walker clearly made a decision to focus on the victims by concentrating so much dramatic energy on Hudgens. It was not the right call. Not only is Hudgens woefully miscast as a junkie stripper, never once believable in the darkness required for that kind of role, but focusing so much on Cindy drains the story of its power. We never get to know the hero or villain of the piece, spending bizarre amounts of time with the woman stuck between them.



[Continue reading for Brian Tallerico’s full “The Frozen Ground” review.](#) [9]

“The Frozen Ground” stars Nicolas Cage, John Cusack, and Vanessa Hudgens. It premieres On Demand tomorrow, August 23, 2013, and opens in limited release on the same date.



The Frozen Ground
Photo credit: LionsGate

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