

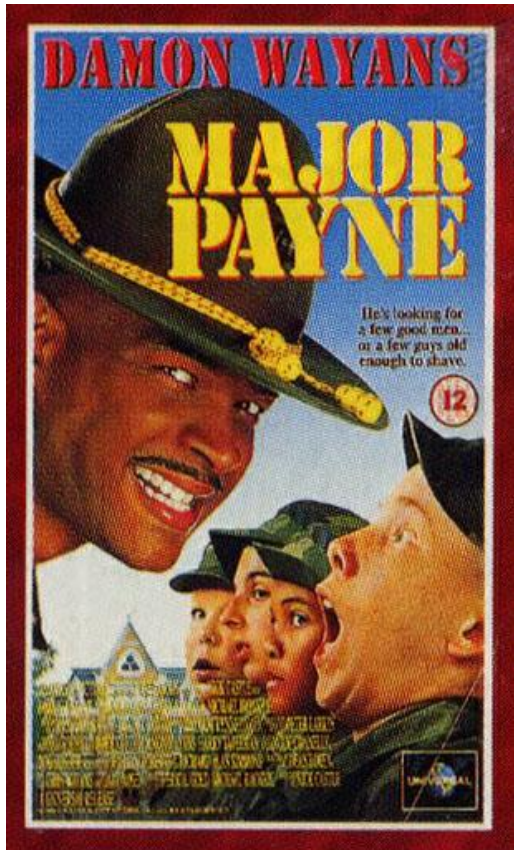
Major Payne

US : 1995 : dir. Nick Castle : Universal : 97 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Damon Wayans; Karyn Parsons; William Hickey; Michael Ironside; Albert Hall; Steven Martini; Orlando Brown; Andrew Harrison Leeds; Joda Blare-Hershman; Damien Wayans; R Stephen Wiles

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5889	1.5	2	1	455	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

“ He’s looking for a few good men...
 or a few guys old enough to shave. ”



Add it to the long list of superfluous remakes with a black "twist". Wayans junior is presumably pictured 2nd right Source: Blockbusters promotional flier

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

“Major Benson Payne is a warrior without a war, a disciplinarian with a rigid military mentality who is oblivious to humanity and feeling. This is about to change upon his taking command of a group of underage cadets. Thoroughly inane, by-the-numbers comedy, with a miscast Wayans too often hard to take in the title role. A remake of **"THE PRIVATE WAR OF MAJOR BENSON"** (1955). Wayans co-scripted and co-executive produced. *1/2 ”

Blockbusters video rental promotional flier note:

“Damon Wayans, a tough, ex-marine drill sergeant, is a victim of the thaw in the Cold War. Out of work, he takes on the task of training some rookie kids – with hilarious results.”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Americans find the British public school system baffling, but their own institution of “military academies” (army-run boarding schools) seem equally bizarre to European eyes. One has to wonder what impels parents to pack their 12-year olds off to be drilled into hard-nosed, straight-arrow little G.I.s. If there are comparable establishments for girls, we don’t hear anything about them. It is *boys* who must learn their parade drill along with their trigonometry and constitutional history. Just as it is received wisdom in the movies now that tabloid television is a pestilence (yet nothing is done to kerb its excesses), so the military academy has become a by-word – in everything from “**The Simpsons**” to “**Malcolm in the Middle**” – for pettiness and blind obedience to ritual.

The impulse to remake popular stories with all-black casts – “**POLLYANNA**” becomes “**POLLY – COMIN’ HOME**” – is a tiresome expression of racial competition, but since black drill sergeants are presumably commonplace in the US Army, the translation is more acceptable in this instance than many (Shakespeare done with black English kings, for instance).

See also “**THE PRIVATE WAR OF MAJOR BENSON**”, and subject index under [BOARDING SCHOOLS / PUBLIC SCHOOLS](#) and **COMEDY**.