



IMTA ALUM RAINI RODRIGUEZ IN *PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2*

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Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2 opens nationwide Friday, April 17

“It’s a great family movie, everyone can enjoy it. Everybody’s going to love it!”

– Raini Rodriguez

After six years of keeping our malls safe, Paul Blart has earned a well-deserved vacation. With an invitation to a prestigious security convention, all expenses paid, he heads to Las Vegas with his teenage daughter before she heads off to college. But safety never takes a holiday and when duty calls, Blart answers.

“It takes place six years after the first movie. Paul is kind of in a rut because he’s had some events happen to him that weren’t all that great,” explained IMTA alum Raini Rodriguez, who is reprising her role as Maya Blart. “So he gets invited to a security guard convention in Las Vegas and he decides to take his daughter. What he doesn’t know is that I’ve been accepted to college at UCLA and I want to go but I don’t want to tell him. So I decide to break it to him easy on this trip, like the last father-daughter kind of trip.”

Unfortunately, the once-in-a-lifetime trip takes a turn for the worse when Blart, played by Kevin James, discovers a plot to rob the hotel where the convention is being held and knows he has to take action. As an over-protective father, he also has to deal with the fact that daughter Maya is a grown woman who wants her own life—which includes attention from the opposite sex. “She’s 19 and kind of all grown up,” said Rodriguez. “She’s a little bit more mature.”

“It’s always great doing a sequel because you get to do things you would have liked to do in the first one,” Rodriguez added. “Also, I think you know your characters better. Watching the movie and watching what people have responded to, you’ve had basically six years of research of how people have responded to Mall Cop 1.”

In addition to James and Rodriguez, *Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2* stars Neal McDonough, Daniela Alonso, Eduardo Verástegui, David Henrie, D.B. Woodside, Nicholas Turturro, Loni Love and Gary Valentine.

Rodriguez currently stars in her fourth season as Trish de Rosa on Disney’s hit “*Austin & Ally*,” for which she won an Imagen Award for Best Young Actress. She was also nominated for a Young Artist Award for her role in the first *Mall Cop* film. Rodriguez recently filmed the pilot for a new Disney series, “*Growing Up and Down*,”

about two teenage kids who must navigate high school alongside their parents, the parents having suddenly and inexplicably been transformed into teenagers again. She will play the teenage version of the mother, Jackie. The pilot is scheduled to air sometime in the fall of 2015.

