

# Madman groupies can delight in film

By REBECCA SCHMIDT  
Movie Critic

Not Brooks' groupies seem to be inebriated between trips to the movies to see the man's latest comedy farce. Of course, there may be an occasional side-junk to see a re-creation of Gene Wilder film or a random Madeline Kahn performance, but their true love is reserved for the work of Hollywood's resident madman.

For all those groupies I have one word—*Silent*. The much anticipated "Silent Movie" has hit the screen and it proves to be worth the wait. Brooks is a relatively uncomplicated man, and so is the story in which he stars, direct and shares authorship. "Silent Movie" tells the tale of an attempt to produce a modern-day silent movie. Silently, of course.

Larry, Moe and Curly have been replaced by Mel Brooks, Marty Feldman and Dom DeLuise as a trio of Hollywood hucksters who are hot on the trail of a comeback. Along their comic way they encounter Sal Caserio, Burt Reynolds, James Chan, Lisa Minelli, Marcel Marceau, Anne Bancroft, Paul Newman and Bernadette Peters. Not bad for starters.

gaga. Brooks has put together some of his funniest film moments in history. And he is helped to no small degree by the scenes in which Hollywood's biggest names have agreed to compromise every bit of decorum they possess. Burt Reynolds ends up in the shower with Brooks, Feldman and DeLuise, right before he falls under a steamroller, that is. James Chan lunches with the threesome

in a trailer with broken springs. The result is that the four of them bounce all over the room while conducting a business deal. Two truly outstanding scenes happen

thanks to Anne Bancroft and Paul Newman. She lunge her heart out in a slapstick sequence that Margaret Tully would have killed for.

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