

BAQ(XWB.5-7B) Q&E Monday, September 22, 1988

Skin's on view in 'Hardbodies 2'

Only three other people were in the theater the night I saw "Hardbodies 2" (R) — and for good reason, it's a pretty dumb skin flick and not very entertaining either.

When the definitive work is written about making movies, "Hardbodies 2" will not be featured prominently, or at all, for every element of the film — plot, characterization, acting, directing and the making of the film-within-the-film — are equally weak and simple-minded.

Mark Griffiths and Curtis Scott Wilmot — the same team who wrote the box-office success, "Hardbodies 1" — deliver another adolescent fantasy that is boring, slow-moving and has all the continuity of home movies. Griffiths also directed both "Hardbodies," and Wilmot plays a supporting lead in Number 2.

Unlike the low-budget "She's Got to Have It" reviewed last week, "Hardbodies 2" obviously cost quite a few bucks and reflects a poor understanding of how to attract and keep an audience's attention.

THE STORY is reminiscent of childish dreams of glory, the fantasy of success for children in the adult world. Whether as children or adults, we've all day-dreamed ourselves to the pinnacle of success or imagined ourselves achieving great heroics.

That has the potential for an entertaining and humorous movie, but in the case of "Hardbodies 2," the immaturity results in a boring skin flick — even, I am sure, for those who like skin.

Scott (Brad Zutaut) is flying to Greece with his friend and co-star,



the movies
Dan Greenberg

Rags (Sam Temeles), to make a movie about a gorgeous and wealthy Greek girl, Cleo (Fabiana Udenio). Cleo's father keeps her a virtual prisoner, I presume to avoid fortune hunters, although that is never clear.

Naturally, Scott falls in love with the Greek waitress, Cleo, who plays Cleo in the movie-within-the-movie. Her father (George Tzifos) keeps her isolated from the boys. As an additional complication, Scott's fiancée, Morgan (Brenda Bakke), a compulsive shopper, is along for the ride.

The potential for satiric comments on human foibles, the crazy mishaps of filmmaking and the all-around general foolishness of people finding their way in the world, are lost because Griffiths and Wilmot fail to deliver a comic punchline or cut to continuity with any semblance of intelligence.

Perhaps their greatest shortcoming is the murky distinctions they make between their film and the film-within-the-film. Both stories are so similar, the transitions so unclear and the acting so weak that there is no impact and what could have been good punchlines get lost in the cutting.

THE GRIFFITHS-Wilmot filmmaking technique may be summarized thusly: "When in doubt, cut to a crowd of barebreasted young ladies."

Most movies have something good to be said for them. In the case of "Hardbodies 2," all one can say is it has a lot of naked ladies, to the point of boredom.

Nonetheless, "Hardbodies 2" is playing around town and probably will until the end of the month, along with most of the others reviewed here recently. A host of new films open the beginning of October. In particular, watch for "Children of a Lesser God" with William Hurt. It's a magnificent film and will be reviewed next week.

Something interesting to be said about one of last week's films, "Good to Go," is the fact that, no matter

how corny and clichéd, its viewpoint is that of the black community and its resolution carries a moral victory for black, inner-city folks. That's unusual in contemporary films.

THE DETROIT Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts features three films this coming weekend. The recent (1985) Brazilian film, "Quilombo," a colorful, historical spectacle about a utopian republic founded by slaves in 17th-century Brazil, will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday. Otto Preminger's 1959 "Anatomy of a Murder," filmed in the Upper Peninsula with James Stewart and an all-star cast, will be screened at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Of special interest, however, is the screening of Kurosawa's "Rinsou-



Brad Zutaut stars as Scott, who falls in love with Cleo, a Greek waitress, played by Fabiana Udenio, in "Hardbodies 2."

mon," 1950 Oscar winner as Best Foreign Film, at 7 p.m. Sunday. "Rashomon" is notable as the film that first focused Western eyes on Japanese filmmaking. This brilliant story of a samurai, his wife and a bandit is a psychological master-

piece investigating the nature of truth and human behavior. While I would never say any one film is "the greatest," "Rashomon" certainly should be on everybody's Top 40 — well worth a trip to the DIA.



Sam Temeles is Rags, Scott's girl-chasing buddy.

table talk

Lobster lovers

D. Dennison's Seafood Tavern offers two lobsters for the price of one through Friday, Oct. 31, at the restaurant in Farmington Hills. The offer is intended only for individual consumption.

Roadhouse chef

Kevin Thomas, 24, is the new head chef of the Roadhouse at Oak Pointe, in the 600-acre Oak Pointe development on Brighton Road, three miles west of Brighton. He served his in-

ternship at Yvonne's Magasin in Birmingham and Freddie's in West Bloomfield.

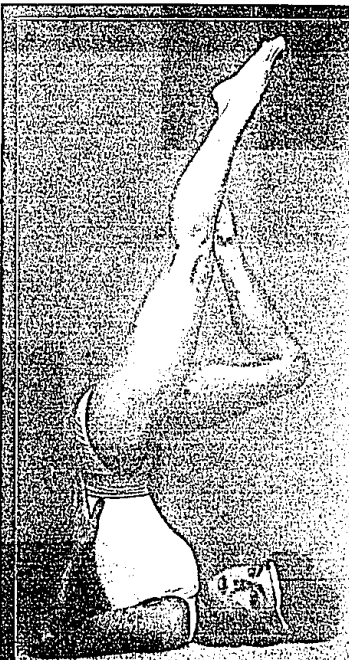
Star dining

The Star of Detroit, cruise dining ship that plies the Detroit River, offers a hot and cold buffet, live musical entertainment and scenic cruises of the Detroit riverfront. Until Saturday, Oct. 18, the Star offers lunch, brunch, dinner and cocktail cruises. The ship is docked at the foot of Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit. Reservations and ticket office is open 9 a.m.

to 7 p.m. daily. Call 465-7826.

New at Lark

Marcus Haight is the new chef de cuisine at the Lark restaurant in West Bloomfield. He obtained his culinary arts degrees and initial job training locally before becoming an apprentice at the Greenbrier resort, W.Va. He's worked at the Malsonette in Cincinnati and La Francaise in Wheeling, Ill. He was dinner chef at Le Bee Fin in Philadelphia. His influence will be felt in the Lark's November-December menu.



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