

## TNT's "Keep the Change" offers warmth, wisdom

### Buck Henry stands out in excellent cast

By Steven Alan McGraw

"I have a superstition about going home, of forcing the present to conform to the past," muses Joe Starling as he heads up the highway toward Montana. "It takes a species of temporary insanity to override that superstition," he adds, "and I am consumed with temporary insanity."

Starling is the protagonist of Thomas McGuane's acclaimed novel, "Keep the Change," the story of a man looking for where he belongs. Now, Turner Network Television brings the tale to the screen, airing first on Tuesday, June 9. Additional showings include June 10, 13, 14, 19 and 21.

Born to the sprawling Big Sky landscape of Montana, Joe couldn't find a place for himself in his father's dual worlds of banking and

ranching; instead, he became a painter, trying to capture, and control, the daunting enormity of his surroundings. Early success takes Joe to Los Angeles, but his artistic fire soon fades and he winds up drawing illustrations for technical manuals. When Joe's mounting debts and dwindling self-esteem reach a perilous intersection, he is urged by his girlfriend Astrid to "do something. Even if it's the wrong thing." And so he does.

William Petersen ("Long Gone," "Young Guns II") plays Joe Starling, and his edgy blend of dark dissatisfaction and boyish befuddlement suit the character well. Rachel Ticotin ("Total Recall," "One Good Cop") is Astrid, a woman of earthy allure and considerable wisdom. Oscar winner

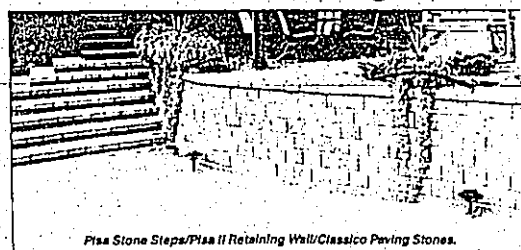
Jack Palance lends his fiery power to his portrayal of Overstreet, the rancher who covets the Starling rabe.

The film's large supporting cast is terrific. Actor/attorney Fred Dalton Thompson ("Cape Fear") stretches his talents admirably in the role of Otis Husewell, a former hand of Overstreet's who agrees to assist Joe when he decides to try ranching one more time. Lolita Davidovich plays Ellen, Joe's first love and Overstreet's manipulative (and manipulated) daughter. "China Beach" veteran Jeff Kober delivers a deceptively simple performance as Billy, Overstreet's dim-witted son-in-law. ("He moves his lips when he's listening," Palance growls).

Actor/writer/director Buck Henry almost steals the show as Smitty, Joe's hokey, big-talking

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