

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

[illegible]

MOVIES

From Dusk Till Dawn' proves an eternity for some



**JOHN
MONAGHAN**

kind of thrills.

And on that level, "From Dusk Till Dawn" is a success. Certainly not for all (or even most) tastes, it's a blood-soaked hybrid that has audiences and critics either in on the admittedly sick joke or threatening to form a lynch mob.

It begins with a classic Tarantino exchange between a Texas sheriff and the guy behind the counter at a roadside liquor establishment. The sign reads "World of Liquor," a spinoff of the old paint company logo with a bottle covering the world in booze.

In the wings are the gun-toting Gecko brothers, just waiting for someone to make the wrong move. They've already blown away a handful of police on their run for the border so they won't hesitate to pop off a few more along the



1998

Thriller: *Harvey Keitel (left) "From Dusk Till Dawn" dir.*

They hijack a RV driven by a preacher and his family and promise that they'll let them go as soon as they're safely into Mexico. It's a premise used constantly in the late 1960s, usually starring Ray Milland (or some other aged Hollywood actor), and illustrated by

The talent pool is a bit stronger here. Harvey Keitel plays the preacher (undergoing a profound crisis of faith), while Juliette Lewis is the daughter who catches

Amazingly enough, in his most substantial role to date, Tarantino proves that he really can bring a believable character to the screen. Where his earlier parts

seemed more like guest walk-ons full of hyperactive rambling, his Richard Gecko is both hilarious and menacing.

the denizens just happen to be vampires. Exactly halfway through the film, "From Dusk till Dawn" turns into a bloody battle of man against monster that makes the "Evil Dead" movie look like a weekend camping trip. The director's reins are handed

over to Robert Rodriguez, best known for his low-budget "El Mariachi" and its sequel, "Desperado." He is especially good at capturing a sleazy south-of-the-border atmosphere, though his editing lacks the kind of kinetic energy that makes Sam Raimi's

There are plenty of surprises here, including "ER's" George Clooney as the other Geck brother, who we know must have a soft side beneath his body-length tattoo. Comedian Chevy Chase extends his movie resume.

Trash by design, "From Dust Till Dawn" is far more satisfying than Rodriguez and Tarantino's previous collaboration, the sardorically clever "Four Rooms."

They're back in fine form, testing an audience's patience and apparently having a blast along the way.

To leave a message for John Monaghan, dial 853-2047, mailbox number 1866, on a touch-tone phone.

**COMING
ATTRACTIONS**

"BED OF ROSES"
Storybook romance about a workaholic financier who is swept off her feet by a love-struck florist. Stars Christian Slater, Mary Stuart

"RESTORATION"
The moving story of the irreplaceable Robert Mervel, who sagely embraces the high living and low moral standards of the court of Charles II. When Mervel falls from grace, he must create his own apuril and social restoration. Stars: Robert Downey, Jr., *Monty Python*.

"SCREAMERS"
A science fiction thriller about a self-replicating race of killing devils known as Screeners designed as a military weapon, but now evolved to a menace to all life forms. Based on the short story by Philip K. Dick.

SCHEDULED TO OPEN FRIDAY, FEB. 2

"THE JUDGE"

A psychological thriller about a single mother who becomes embroiled in a dangerous game when she is chosen to serve on the jury in the trial of a powerful mobster.

"TWO SITS"
Warm-hearted coming-of-age story that revolves around a lovable but feisty grandfather and his grandson. Stars Al Pacino.

"WHITE SQUALL"
Based on the 1961 high sea adventure about a group of teenagers who go sailing on a brigantine school ship and the hurricane that hits "The Albatross" killing a people. Stars Jeff Bridges.

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