

MOVIES

'Company' takes grim view of men

BY JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

By now you've heard the premise: two Midwestern junior executives plot to woo a vulnerable woman and then summarily dump her.

The underlying question surrounding "In the Company of Men," isn't necessarily, "how could they do such a thing?" It's more along the lines of, "are you really that surprised?"

Men have been behaving badly in the movies since the silents. What makes Neil LaBute's independent feature different is the ferocity with which main character Chad (Aaron Eckhart) approaches not just women, but life in general.

A corporate player, Chad despises most of the guys he works with and says so behind their backs. Yet he seems to genuinely like Howard (Matt Malloy), his bespectacled former classmate and boss on a current project, at least enough to take him in on his plan.

Why are they doing it? Chad has just gotten out of a relationship with a live-in girlfriend. Howard's fiancée gave him the kiss off when she said they should see other people. Humiliating Christine (Stacy Edwards), who is not only attractive but deaf, will work like therapy.

The movie, which is playing



BONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Drama: Aaron Eckhart (left) and Matt Malloy "In the Company of Men."

exclusively at the Detroit Film Theatre this Sunday before opening wide Friday, Sept. 12, is an up-to-the minute look at the bitterness that exists in the corporate world.

As such, it falls into the category of hot-topic movie of the moment.

It's certainly not without flaws. The acting by Eckhart and Malloy isn't always strong

enough to carry their lengthy exchanges, which take place with few cuts in the sterile offices, bathrooms, and airport waiting areas that define corporate America.

Writer/director LaBute's clever dialogue, meanwhile, is perhaps too clever. (Do guys like Chad really make allusions to "The Magnificent Ambersons?")

Edwards fares better as Chris-

tine, especially when she feels guilty for falling for one of the men. Her gentle letdown of the other is so touching because it contains the sole tender human gesture in a movie that is cynical to the core.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1886.

Arthritis Today

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PLANTARIS RUPTURE

You may have heard of someone who, while playing tennis or volleyball, suddenly felt a sharp pain in the back of the leg. The pain is so intense the individual could not walk. The person then experienced swelling of the leg with bruising appearing over the calf, and could walk only with a limp.

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The pain is short lived. However the damage may take weeks to heal. Medical therapy is limited, only time will allow the swelling to resolve. Impairment comes from bleeding into the calf muscles that occurred at the time of the muscle tear. As the blood is absorbed into the body, the calf swelling resolves, and walking returns to normal.

A doctor can diagnose that the swelling and pain came from a rupture of the plantaris or gastrocnemius. He can tell the difference from a blood clot, by the sudden onset of the problem, and the bruising over the calf that occurs at the same time. Blood clots do not have such features.

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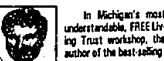
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