



Bubbles and bubbly

Dudley Moore stars in the comedy "Arthur" as a carousing millionaire whose family has threatened to cut off his inheritance unless he marries a cloying debutante and gives up the shoplifter he loves.



the movies

Louise Snider

'S.O.B.' roasts moguls, flunkies of Hollywood

Either you love it or you hate it.

"S.O.B." (It) is that kind of movie. Blake Edwards, the creative force behind this dark comedy, skewers the film industry and delivers an extra thrust whenever a studio executive or actor's agent is the target. However, he doesn't miss anyone; the flatterers and hangers-on, lawyers and houseboys all are included.

Edwards has a well-deserved reputation as a master of comedy, but there is nothing in his previous films — "10" and the Pink Panther series — to prepare one for the black humor and stinging satire of "S.O.B." (Standard Operational Bull).

A jogger on the beach dies of a heart attack. He lies there for days, his dog vainly trying to attract attention, while beach people go on with their beach people life.

A movie director who has had one smashing success after another has an expensive failure and becomes suicidal. He keeps trying to kill himself while people around him continue to party. His doctor's solution is to pump himself and his patient full of happy pills and shots.

THE MOVIE IS a deliciously venomous reflection of some of Edwards' own experiences with the Hollywood moguls. He had an impressive track record and a Midas touch until he made a costly loser, "Darling Lili," and became persona non grata.

After a lengthy exile, Edwards did make a big comeback with his comedies. Now, with one mighty swipe, he's decked the opposition.

Using slapstick, caricature and devastating wit, he's exposed the callousness, the greed, the double-dealing and the hypocrisy of this glum industry.

Richard Mulligan has the role of the director, Felix Farmer, a role he plays first with catatonic drooliness, then with manic abandon. The change occurs when he decides he can salvage his G-rated disaster by reshooting it as an erotic film.

JULIE ANDREWS, who is married to Edwards, plays Felix's wife, Sally Miles, the star of his big flop. Sally is the darling of millions of movie-goers who cherish her sweet, prim image. When Felix decides to reshoot his movie, he plans to titillate and shock audiences by putting Sally in the leading role.

Casting Julie Andrews — the "Mary Poppins," "Sound of Music" Julie Andrews — goody two-shoes Sally Miles is a marvelous pun, but it is also so close to reality as to be distracting. It might have been better if some lesser-known actress had taken the part.

Otherwise, the casting is exceptionally good. William Holden is Felix's jaded but staunch friend; Robert Webber is a nervous man; Shelly Winters, a greedy agent; Stuart Margolin, a two-faced personal secretary; Loretta Swit, a dragon-lady gossip columnist; and Robert Vaughn, a nasty studio head.

Among all this top talent, Robert Preston steals the movie as the laid-back doctor who ministers to celebrities' malfunctions. "S.O.B." is not about nice people, and it's certainly not about ordinary people, but they sure catch your attention when Edwards turns them on the spit.



Endless heartbreak

Brooke Shields plays a Jade, a teenager whose obsessive affair with 17-year-old David (Martin Hewitt) enrages her parents and leads to tragedy.

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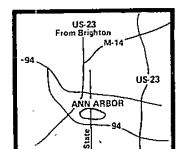
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