

Hairy-chested Burt Reynolds is an ex-con named Ernest Stickly in the screen version of Birmingham author El-more Leonard's action novel "Stick."



the movies

Dan Greenberg

Still-macho Burt does usual routine in cliched 'Stick'

Every time I see a Burt Reynolds' flick, I open several buttons on my shirt, go home and leer suggestively at my wife. She usually tells me to emply the garbage. I don't understand. It always works for macho-man Reynolds. He always gets the girl, even if she's less than desirable, as Candice Bergen is this time out—looking tired, faded and bored — before, after and during her big night with Reynolds.

But the blg night and the big bash is Reynolds' trademark and his latest, "Stick," is no exception, with Reynolds as Ernest Stickly, an ex-con returning to friends and family on Florida's Gold Coast.

Hainy (Jose Perez), a prison friend, gets Stick reinvolved with the underworld and gets himself murdered in the process, leaving Stick with the obligation of revenge against fat, perverse drug dealer Chucky (Charles Durning) who, in turn, is in trouble with underworld kingpin Nestor (Castulo Guerra), who is into obscure voodoo rites with ecorpions.

IF THAT PLOT doesn't sound familiar, you haven't been to the movies in a couple of decades. Naturally, Sitek is separated from his wife but close to his daughter, Katle (Tricla Leigh Fisher), because the plot requires someone close to the hero for the villain to kidnap.

Along his road to revenge, Stick becomes chauffeur to boorish but good-hearted millionaire Barry Brahn (George Segal) whose semi-live-in, Investment counselor Kyle (Candice Bergen), is mainly kept around to demonstrate Reynolds' incredible appent to seemen.

The plot is trite and the production no better, with the pace faltering quite regularly. Not only are there a lot of boring sequences, it's long, too.

Based on a novel by Birmingham writer Elmore Leonard (he co-authored the screenplay), 'Stick' is no great shakes and it's easy to see why the writer was unhappy with Hollywood's results.

The pace is a major problem and George Roy Illil, director of 'Butch Cassidy' and 'The Sting,' was right: Girls slow up the action in adventure Illins as Bergen and Fisher prove. April Clough prances around in the background as Chucky's girlfriend and, fortunately, her credit is bigger than her role.

DEANNE LUND as Barry's wife wound up on the cutting room floor but no one fixed the credits. Her existence explains how Stick could romance the boss's girl and still be loyal. Too bad she wasn't in the film.

Sachi Parker as Bobbi the barmaid is the only attractive, ac-complished appearance in the film, but Burt can't stand too much competition from the ladies.

The Illm is loaded with second-generation Hollywood celebri-ties, Parker is the daughter of Shirley MacLaine and Steve Parker, Fisher the daughter of Connic Stevens and Eddle Fisher and, of course, Bergen's father was the famous and ever-popular Charlle McCarlow.

"Stick" does have some enjoyable moments, not counting the violence, although some may enjoy that. Those happy moments come in a number of sequences with anappy dialogue exchanged between Reynolds and supporting actors, including George Segal's crasy millionatic with dumb joken ("What's the last thing that goes through a bug's mind before he hits your windshield?") and Richard Lawson as Cornell, the smooth-talking houseman.

Alex Rocco, a familiar face, appears as Firestone, the flaky filmmaker, and there is a small army of heavy-looking boods including the weird sadist, Moke (Dar Hohlmon). Roblisson is an externedly accomplished stuntana and does a couple of pretty spectacular falls including two 200-foot ones from a 20-story building. Durning is disappointing as the drug dealer, coming across as a pathetic addict rather than providing any viliatnous tension for Reynolds' macho display.



Candice Bergen is Kyle, an investment counselor and girlfriend of millionaire Barry Brahn, played by George Segal. She falls (naturally) for Reynolds as Stick.

what's at the movies

AMADEUS (PG), Winner of eight Academy Awards, Superb rendition of Mozart's life with Tom Hulee and F. Murray Abraham, Directed by Milos Forman. BERINY GOIDN'S THE LAST DIRAGON (PG-13). Contemporary music and martial arts in New York City, Drag on home and miss it.

THE CARE BEAIS MOVIE (G). Animated feature about the Care Bears, featuring Mickey Roenoy's voice as Mr. Cherrywood.

ney's voice as Mr. Cherrywood.

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN (PG-13). Hobeken housewife changes identifies with a free line of the property of th

avoid this terminally dumb movie.

MASK (PG-13). There in true story of biker lady with genetically deformed child. Maudlin moments intermixed with uplitting performance by Eric Stoilt and Laura Dern.

MOVING VIOLATIONS (PG-13). Comedy about traffle safety starring Sally Kellerman and James Keach.

POLICE ACADEMY II (PG-13). More of the same hijinks with those men in blue.



Madonna plays Susan, sort of a New Wave Holly Golightly, living a whirlwind life in New York, in "Desperately Seeking Su-san." The rock star, who was born Madon-a Louise Ciccone, lived in Rochester Hills and went to Rochester Adams High



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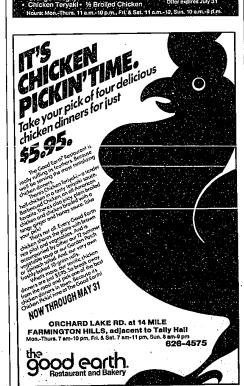














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