A GUIDETO THE MOVIES \$1.50 LIVONIA MALA COLOR

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WAIN ART THEATRE III MOONING NOOD OF THE STREET OF MOONING WITH MOONING MOO

The microphone keeps creeping into the shot. Actors want to change the blocking. Street noise spoils the soundtrack. Meanwhile, the frazzled director tries to hold cast and crew — and his sanity — together.

"Living in Oblivion," set on a low-hudget movie set in New York City, is an exercise in frustration. It's an often hilarious look at the personalities and myriad details that put even the smallest movie together.

Steve Buscem plays Nike

BY JOHN MONAGILAN SPECIAL WAITER

"Living in Oblivion" 7, 9:30 p.m. lug. 25-26; 4, 7 p.m. Aug. 27. De-roit Institute of Arts, 5200 Wood-vard, Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323.

Rave, who often feels that making movies is just a series of compromises and disappointments. You can see how upset he is when his actors give their greatest performances during rehearsal but flounder on camera.

For Tom DiCillo, the real-life writer and director of "Living in Oblivion," the movie set could serve as a stand-in for life, where we're all trying to capture that perfect shot while the world collapses around us.

DiCillo gave Brad Pitt his first starring role in, the little-seen "Johnny Suede. Now on places the center of stention on Buscemi, the figure who cut his teeth in movies by Joel and Ethan Coen and cult first who cut his teeth in movies by Joel and Ethan Coen

Oblivion' a treat for movie fans

before nailing Mr. Pink in "Reservoir Dogs."

His Nick has his bands full with popular soap opers actor Chad Palomino (James Le Gros), who admits that he's only acting in the movie because Nick has some pull with Quentin Tarantin. When Chad wants to wear an eye patch, Nick diffuses him by confiding that it makes him look "allittle gay."

Despits all the effort, Nick's movie appears a bit weak, a cross between bad performance art (is there any other kind?) and hokey meledarma. The three key scenes we see over and over tell the story of a woman, apparently abused as a child, whose anxiety about marriage culminates in a dream

sequence involving an appleholding dwarf.
In another dream, Nick blows
up at the actors and technicians
and his rantings, though cruel,
are essentially true. Wolf, the cinematographer played by DermotMulroney, really is a beret-wearing prima donna. Lead actreas Nicole (Catherine Keener) can be
stiff in front of the camera. The
boom operators and lighting gays
really are dolts.

To leave a message for John.
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