

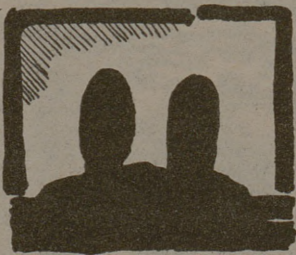


Would you wear these pants? Millions of people do in the movie "So Fine," saving Fine Fashions from financial ruin.

'So Fine' just so-so

By Cathy Saathoff
Battalion Staff

The only interesting end in "So Fine" is the end of the movie. The infamous celophane-seated jeans which are



featured in ads for the movie are only an incidental part of a weak plot.

The idea is harmless enough — a garment maker gets in big financial trouble, and his book-learned son unwittingly comes up with a way to bail him out.

It has all the potential of being a cute movie. Not award winning, but entertaining — one that you don't mind going to see on dollar night when it's cheap. But it doesn't work. Even at the Sunday afternoon bargain matinee, it wasn't worth it.

The action in the film is too silly to be realistic, but not funny enough to be comedy.

It's hard to believe that the bookworm son, the creator of the peek-a-boo jeans, is the same Ryan O'Neal who starred in the tearjerker "Love Story," or the hilarious "Paper Moon" or "What's Up, Doc?" O'Neal plays a ultra-literary (nerdy) English professor at Chippenango

State College. The character isn't much to work with, and O'Neal's portrayal lacks the sparkle he has shown playing similar roles in other films.

Jack Warden plays Daddy Fine, patriarch of Fine Fashions, a business which is fast failing. Warden seems to realize that the role isn't much to work with, and does what he can to liven it up. He brings the harried owner to life, perfectly expressing Mr. Fine's lackluster personality.

Richard Kiel, the hulk known as "Jaws" from the James Bond series, plays a dim-witted giant with a hot-blooded Italian wife, played by Mariangela Melato. Kiel's only contributions to the movie are his height (7 feet 3 inches) and a remarkable ability to throw heavy objects (pinball machines, jukeboxes) around. Wonder Woman can throw things, too, and you can see her on television.

Melato brings an intensity to the screen not seen since the days of Lassie. She just doesn't seem right for the role of a blond sex machine, or for O'Neal, or for American movie audiences.

The entire crew ends up in the middle of a production of Verdi's "Otello," in a scene so ridiculous it's almost embarrassing.

No doubt some enterprising businessman will soon come out with "So Fine" jeans so that you, too, can pick up on the latest fashion fad.

Consider the jeans if you want, but forget about the movie.

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