

reviews

"Tin Men"
 Directed by Barry Levinson
 Starring Richard Dreyfuss, Danny DeVito and Barbara Hershey
 ★★☆☆

Touchstone films is making a mistake by promoting "Tin Men" as a comedy. "Tin Men" does contain some funny moments, but its strength lies in the serious side of the film.

Richard Dreyfuss' last film, "Down and Out in Beverly Hills," earned Touchstone several million dollars. Danny DeVito's last film, "Ruthless People," also earned Touchstone several million dollars. Since both of those films were comedies, it explains Touchstone's advertising campaign for "Tin Men."

"Tin Men" is the story of a couple of Tin Men—aluminum siding salesmen—living in Baltimore in 1963. Tin Men are a strange breed of salesmen in that they are able to hustle and con people into shelling out thousands of dollars on something so gauche as aluminum siding. They gamble, drink and chase women but manage to maintain an air of respectability. Tin Men are usually good men but they often rely on dishonesty to sell their product.

One Tin Man is B.B.

(Richard Dreyfuss), a young, good-looking man who can sell anything. He is in complete control of his life because of his sly scheming.

Another Tin Man is Tilley (Danny DeVito). Tilley is losing his ability to sell, and his world is about to crash around him. He is about to have to pay for all of his schemes.

B.B. buys a Cadillac, a status symbol among Tin Men, and literally runs into Tilley's Cadillac as he is leaving the showroom. Although both parties are at fault, neither one will accept any part of the blame—just the sort of attitude you would expect from Tin Men. To protect their image, they react violently to the situation and threaten revenge.

The battle begins with B.B. vandalizing Tilley's Cadillac and escalates after Tilley vandalizes B.B.'s Cadillac. B.B. decides the ultimate revenge would be to seduce Tilley's wife, Nora (Barbara Hershey). That's when real emotions begin to enter the battle.

B.B.'s control over his life begins to waver because of the battle of wits with Tilley and his new-found feelings resulting from his fling with Nora. Both men are threatened by a special branch of the Federal Trade Commission, set up to investigate and prosecute illegal business practices in the aluminum siding industry.

"Tin Men" is an interesting character study. You have two men who deal in dishonesty and fall back on dishonesty to sort out their private lives.

Despite the dishonesty, you feel sympathy for Tilley and B.B. and see a hope for redemption.

"Tin Men" is also about a period in American history. During the '60s the American consumer began to demand honesty from industry and business. It's no accident that director Barry Levinson has B.B. drive a Corvair while his Cadillac is in the shop. The Corvair was the subject of Ralph Nader's "Unsafe at Any Speed." Nader used the Corvair as the first target of his war to protect the consumer. "Tin Men" shows the final days when industry could push off any garbage or any scam on the American public in the name of free enterprise.

Dreyfuss, DeVito and Hershey turn in marvelous performances. Levinson's direction is simple and effective. The feel of the period is captured beautifully but is somewhat obtrusive. Another problem is that there are several moments in the film that don't work. There is a lot of natural humor in some situations, but there are a couple of scenes that were thrown in just for laughs and those laughs are forced.

—Review by Karl Pallmeyer

Best Bets

Tonight you may want to check out Town Hall's concert at the Grove featuring The Handouts and the Fabulous Pleasuretones. The show begins at 8 p.m. and admission is \$2.

If your club has live music that you would like listed in Best Bets, call *At Ease* at 845-3312.

Eastgate Live

Located on Texas Avenue across from the east entrance of campus. Under 21 admitted. Legal drinkers can purchase wine or beer or bring their own liquor - Eastgate Live provides setups. Call 764-2095 for more information.
 Thursday — Pet Peeves. Dance rock. Cover \$3.50.
 Friday — Herschel Berry and the Natives. Dance rock. Cover \$4.
 Saturday — Self Employed. Rock. Cover \$3
 Tuesday — Straight Edge. Speed core metal. No cover
 Wednesday — Crank. Rock. Cover \$1.

Morgenstern's

This club is about one-half mile north of campus on College Main. Those 18 and older are admitted. Beer, wine and setups are served to legal drinkers. For more information, call 846-1812.
 Thursday - The Crawl. Rock, rhythm and blues. Cover \$3.
 Friday - Students Against Apartheid benefit featuring Dr. Rockit. Rock. Cover \$5.
 Saturday - The Pet Peeves. Rock. Cover \$3.
 Wednesday — The Lippman Jam. Open stage. No cover

Brazos Landing

Brazos Landing is at Northgate next to Gizmos. Everyone is admitted. Beer and wine are served. For more information, call 846-3497.
 Thursday — Side Effects. Blues folk. No cover.
 Friday — Walter Hyatt and Champ Hood. Folk. No cover.
 Saturday - Julius Miller and the Untouchables Blues Band. Blues. Cover \$3.
 Sunday — Bluegrass Review. Bluegrass. No cover

Flying Tomato

At Northgate. Everyone is admitted. Legal drinkers can consume beer and wine. Call 846-1616 for more information.
 Monday — Pat Foster. Rock. 9 p.m. to midnight. No cover.
 Wednesday — Sneaky Pete and the Neon Madmen. Rock. 9 p.m. to midnight. No cover.

Rocco's

Rocco's is located at Northgate. Those 18 and older are admitted. Beer, wine and liquor are served to legal drinkers. For more information, call 846-1023.
 Wednesday — The Pet Peeves. Rock. 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Cover \$2.

Kay's Cabaret

Located at Post Oak Mall. Those 18 and older are admitted. Beer, wine and liquor are served to legal drinkers. Call 696-9191 for more information.
 Friday — Pat Foster. Rock. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. No cover.



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