

reviews

"Burglar"
Directed by Hugh Wilson
Starring Whoopi
Goldberg, G.W. Bailey
and Bob Goldthwait

★

There is only one reason to see "Burglar" and that is Bob Goldthwait.

Although "Burglar" is set up as a vehicle for Whoopi Goldberg, Goldthwait steals the show. The problem is not Goldberg, it's the script.

Goldberg is far too talented to be burdened with the fifth-rate humor in the script.

In "Burglar," Goldberg plays Bernie Rhodenbarr, an ex-con forced to return to her previous illegal activities to pay off a crooked cop, Ray Kirschman (G.W. Bailey), who has evidence that could send her to jail again.

Bernie's heist of an apartment is interrupted by the murder of the

apartment's owner. She realizes she will be held responsible for the murder and sets out with her friend Carl (Goldthwait) to find the real murderer before the police find her.

The problem with "Burglar" is the same problem that plagued "Jumpin' Jack Flash," Goldberg's first and slightly better comedy. Goldberg is a comedienne capable of portraying

many funny characters. When you have a script that ties her down to one character, she isn't given the chance to improvise. In "The Color Purple," Goldberg did a fine job because she was playing a strong, serious role that she felt strongly about.

Goldthwait, on the other hand, gets to go crazy. He's a hyperactive looney who seems harmless but a little scary at times. The scene where

he pretends to be a delivery boy in the bar, and the scene where he is given a trash can lid and told to hit the villain if he moves, show pure comedic genius.

Wait till "Burglar" comes out on videotape so that you can fast-forward through all the parts that don't feature Goldthwait.

—Review by Karl Pallmeyer

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Whoopi Goldberg and Bob Goldthwait star in "Burglar."



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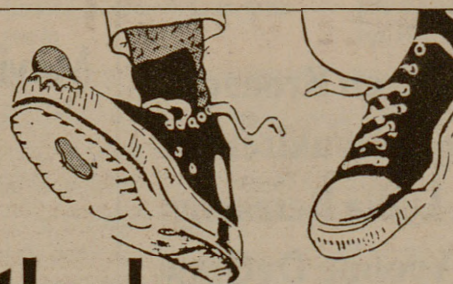
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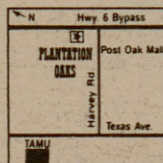
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