

"Good Against Evil"
Written and directed by Sylvester Stallone
Starring Sylvester Stallone, Clint Eastwood, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Charles Bronson, Malcom McDowell, Bruce Dern, Jack Nicholson and Woody Allen

Sylvester Stallone has made a bold move. His new movie, "Good Against Evil," is a departure from the action-adventure flicks he has been making for the past five years. It's an intelligent, well-written, stylistic portrait of two groups with very different philosophies.

"Good Against Evil" begins with a news broadcast about a recent wave of crime that has hit Chicago. A trio of mercenaries, Alex (Malcolm McDowell), Longhair (Bruce Dern) and Torrence (Jack Nicholson), have been raiding the city. In the past week these men have crippled 36 children, killed 14 cripples, raped 29 nuns, harrassed seven different boys' clubs, stolen cookies from a dozen girls' clubs and run over 463 dogs, 114 cats, 18 horses, 47 cows and two ferrets. These evil men report back to their leader, a mysterious man known only as "The Gub" (Woody Allen).

Chicago's toughest cops, Marvin Rockbo (Sylvester Stallone), Harry Drifter (Clint Eastwood), D.T.H. Wish (Charles Bronson) and Conan Terminator (Arnold Schwarzenegger), decide to join forces to stop the evil mercenaries.

Rockbo, Drifter, Wish and Terminator meet for breakfast and discuss the philosophical ramifications of their task. They debate the constitutional rights of the evil people and show an actual concern over not hurting the villains.

On the other side, Alex, Longhair and Torrence meet at The Gub's apartment and discuss their crimes over orange juice and doughnuts. Their motivation is not money but to express man's darkest tendencies. These are well-spoken, gentle men who have made an intellectual decision to test the boundaries of morality.

The acting is superb, mainly because the actors are already familiar with their roles. Allen takes the loveable schmuck he has played in most of his films and makes him almost diabolical. McDowell reprises his role in "A Clockwork Orange" but is able to stretch and show a more mature side to the character. Nicholson's role as Torrence from "The Shining" is more human than in Stanley Kubrick's film.

But when it comes Oscar time, the award is going to go to Dern for being the sickest villain since Richard Nixon.

—Review by Karl Pallmeyer

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