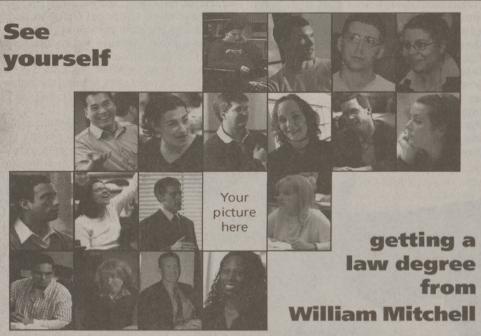


Tonight 3/11 8:30-10:30

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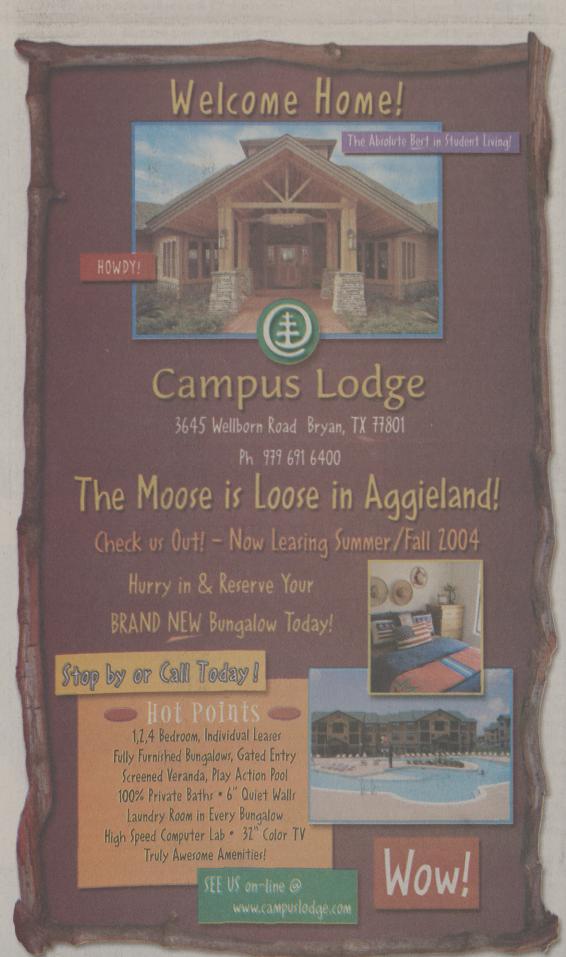
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Thursday, March 11, 2004

REEL

CRITIQU



Emile Hirsch (left) plays Matthew, who falls for Danielle (Elisha Cuthbert), a former porn star who moves in next door.

"The Girl Next Door" Starring Emile Hirsch and Elisha Cuthbert 20th Century Fox Pictures

There's something about "The Girl Next Door" that manages to charm its way under your skin. Maybe it's the calculated use of fondly remembered music or the always-pleasant scenario where the loser wins, but "The Girl Next Door" manages to elevate itself above a typical teenage sex romp to become a likable movie.

Matthew (Emile Hirsch) is on the verge of his high school graduation. Although he is admitted into the college of his dreams, Matthew isn't content with his placid life of following the rules and being the student council president. Deep inside, Matthew craves adventure and excitement.

When beautiful Danielle (Elisha Cuthbert) moves in next door, Matthew finds true happiness even as he is further entangled or drawn into the seedy world of adult entertainment. Danielle is a porn star, searching for a new beginning. Unfortunately, Danielle can't escape her past. It's up to Matthew to find happiness for both himself and the girl next door.

Unfortunately, Elisha Cuthbert's presence in the movie seems to be solely for the sake of eye candy. While Cuthbert has no problem commanding men's attention, her character lacks the depth to make the audience believe Matthew would fall in love with her for anything but her looks. The film's real standout is Timothy Olyphant as Kelly, Danielle's adult film producer. Olyphant oozes charm throughout the movie as he openly flirts with any woman present and tries to be buddy-buddy with Matthew. That's why the revelation of his true nature comes as a shock. Mastering violent outbursts and crazy smirks. Olyphant is a great character actor.

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Director Luke Greenfield ("The Animal") and cinematographer Jamie Anderson work together to deliver a great stylized film that utilizes trendy editing and in-your-face angles to build up the film's tone whenever excitement is afoot. Every scene with Olyphant's character becomes an MTV-like extravaganza of jump cuts and close-ups.

The movie's accuracy of high school life is surprisingly on the spot for a Hollywood movie. In recent films, we've seen actors in their late 20s portraying high school students without batting an eye. "The Girl Next Door" uses quite a few talented actors who are actually right out of their own high school careers.

The movie definitely won't be remembered as a groundbreaking example of solid filmmaking, but at the same time, don't be surprised if it is remembered fondly as a "cute" movie with likeable characters and a clever script.



- Robert Saucedo

ENTERTAINME

THE BATTAL

PHOTO COURTESY OF . WARNER BROTHERS

Ben Stiller (left) and Owen Wilson play the retted duo "Starsky & Hutch" in the remake of the IS television series.

Starsky & Hutch Warner Brothers Studios Starring Owen Wilson, Ben Still

In a direct testament to the talent behind "Starsky & Hutch" manages to climb itself out the pit of forgettable big-screen adaptation 1970s cop shows. A mixture of comedic slaps and retro action scenes, "Starsky & Hutch" sale and funky movie that will bring a smile to a moviegoer's face.

Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson star as D. Starsky and Ken Hutchinson, two plained cops who cruise the streets of Bay City but criminals with the help of police informant human Bear (Snoop Dogg). In the tradition of any buddy cop movie, the two cops must get over initial dislike of each other if they hope to be down white-collar drug dealer Reese Felt

(Vince Vaughn). While the plot will not win any awards for vation, the movie's main draw is not the story. real treat is the vast collection of talented come bouncing their charismatic personalities off another in a game of mirthful pingpong. Wilson Stiller have now appeared in six movies tog and have honed their shtick routine down to Wilson portrays Hutch as a smooth-operating man who's more comfortable charming the pa off of a cheerleader than busting criminals. In when audiences first meet the morally ambig cop, he's moonlighting as a robber. In direct sition to Wilson's easygoing Hutch, Stiller por Starsky as a straight-laced ticking time-bomb man. With a temper as big as his hairdo, Stars as quick to share an insult as he is to throw a pu Together, the two actors fine-tune their pate uptight man/hyperactive man-child routine and ate a pair of likeable personalities.

humor that marked his two previous films, in Trip" and "Old School," in favor of a tighter page with "Starsky & Hutch." Perhaps taking best route, he gives the actors freedom and less do what they do best: act funny. On the visuals Phillips works with cinematographer Barry Peter to create a stylish film that actually stays true to 70s roots. Full of slow motion and freeze from the movie is fun to watch without the camera we becoming distracting.

Whether audiences are watching Stiller om in a disco dance out while buzzing on cocained Wilson trying to dodge a small child with a limp for throwing knives, they will be enjoying a fur flick with enough funk to fill a Volkswagen. We a rocking soundtrack and a stellar cast, "Starsky Hutch" creates a well-balanced picture that will leave even the most jaded of moviegoers check!



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