

'Barton Fink' is a decayed celebration of the common man

by Daniel W. Duffy



John Goodman (l.) and John Turturro star in the new Coen brothers film Barton Fink.

Barton Fink is the unusual tale of a sincere New York playwright who reluctantly moves to Los Angeles to write for the motion pictures in the 1940s. John Turturro (*Do the Right Thing*, *Miller's Crossing*) stars as Barton Fink, a man who is devoted to writing about the plight and suffering of the "common man," but becomes disillusioned with the eccentric craziness of Hollywood and his next door neighbor, John Goodman (*Raising Arizona*, *Sea of Love* and TV's "Roseanne") who puts in a genuine performance as the hellish Charlie Meadows.

The makers of the film are Joel and Ethan Coen, the same team that produced and directed *Blood Simple*, *Raising Arizona* and *Miller's Crossing*. With this humorous movie, they bring a little of the surreal and the macabre to life, not unlike their other films. Their "distressed Deco" depiction of Los Angeles is peaceful yet almost unnerving, highlighted by a wide array of sounds and foggy yet crisp

cinematography.

The heart of the film, though, is the relationship between Goodman and Turturro and the bizarre friendship they have. They are surrounded by all sorts of batty caricatures of characters that add some in-

teresting twists to the story.

The production designer of *Barton Fink*, Dennis Gassner sums up the movie quite well.

"It's interesting," Gassner said,

"I read the script and thought, 'Oh, this is going to be a simple little movie, but it has actually become won-

derfully complicated and grown to interesting proportions."

Barton Fink won this year's Palme d'Or (the grand prize) at the Cannes Film Festival in France.

So if you like the previous work of the Coens or you like something a little out of the ordinary, this film may be for you.

MOVIE REVIEW

Barton Fink (****)

Starring John Turturro, John Goodman, Michael Lerner. Directed by Joel Coen.

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Doughboys offer post-punk diversity



The Doughboys offer it up with Happy Accidents.

by Kevin DeSilva

Since their formation in 1986, the Montreal-based Doughboys have been weaving a unique brand of power pop. Power pop is a loose description of their sound.

"There's a definite punk influence and a definite psychedelic influence. There are just so many influences, it's hard to describe," said guitarist John Cummins.

One thing is certain though, the Doughboys try to keep a sense of humor with song titles like "Intervenes De Milo, (Spinal Tap, anyone?)" and the "Apprenticeship of Lenny Kravitz" which Cummins called, "a

song we needed a title for."

The songs from their third and current album, *Happy Accidents* range from a post punk sound to light country.

When asked about comparisons between the Doughboys and the now defunct Husker Du, Cummins said he felt that they were "completely unwarranted," and that "comparisons are made because both bands came from the ashes of punk rock, and Husker Du also played hard pop songs. If you listen to *Happy Accidents*, then you would hear more of a Beatles feel."

The Doughboys have done extensive touring and will only have a week off

between now and Christmas. They have toured with Big Drill Car and All. Some of the up-and-coming bands Cummins said he likes are Nirvana, Jesus Lizard, Urge Overkill, and the Florida-based group, Quit.

The band is composed of vocalist John Kastner, bassist John Bondhead and drummer Paul Newman. They have started writing material for their next album, with Kastner already completing ten songs. Cummins will complete his share when they come off the road. Cummins said they will have, "too many songs, but then we'll be able to pick and choose."

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treated very well," Richardson said.

Unlike other bands who seem to have the tradition of the guitarist and singer in the spotlight, Firehouse seem to be a "band" in the true sense of the word. Every member participates in the songwriting process. Snare and Leverty might "come up with a riff or melody line. They bring it in

and we'll all work on it," Richardson explained.

Richardson said that they've already begun to work on their next album with roughly ten songs ready to go. Richardson explained that there was no permanent date for release but that the record company is pushing for the new material to be finished in January and February.

Firehouse also recently shot their next video for "All She Wrote" a couple of weeks ago in St. George, Utah. It will be the band's first "live" clip.

As for the topics that Firehouse writes about, Richardson had only this to say: "We write what we write. Whatever comes out of our hearts, that's the way it comes out."