



'Indecent Proposal' boasts more panache than substance

by Daniel W. Duffy

Director Adrian Lyne has made a career of stylized films about cultural taboos and how life can go awry when they are tampered with.

In *Fatal Attraction*, he explored adultery and the after-shocks felt when Micheal Douglas dances a little too close to the devilish Glenn Close and she torments him and his family. In *9 1/2 Weeks*, Kim Basinger becomes so obsessed with a sadistic Mickey Rourke, she must use every bone in her body to break his spell.

All of Lyne's movies are visually stunning and fun to watch, but most lack any true substance. His latest, *Indecent Proposal*, is no exception.

The premise of the film is simple. Would you let your wife sleep with another man for a cool \$1 million? A dramatized version of *Honeymoon In Vegas* if you will.

Demi Moore and Woody Harrelson star as a young couple who having lost all their money at the Las Vegas Hilton, are propositioned by a billionaire (Robert Redford) to allow Moore to spend the night with him.

The story itself is rather uneven and told in a dual, voice-over narrative between Harrelson and Moore. The rise and fall of this young couple is extremely drawn out and at times, boring.

This could be attributed to the fact that all of the actors involved are more or less, boring. Moore and Harrelson are decent in supporting roles, but neither one is all that exciting. The chemistry between them isn't burning any biscuits either.

The only reason the love scenes work is because of Moore, probably because she's well..., one steamy mama. But her weepy-eyed recreations of her *Ghost* role are getting pretty stale.

Harrelson is palatable in his first dramatic role, but he lacks a commanding screen presence.



Woody Harrelson and Demi Moore

The casting of the all-American Redford as the sleazy business magnate with a heart of gold goes against type, but his character is radically underdeveloped and his true nature (C'mon it's Bob Redford), is somewhat predictable.

Perhaps they should have gone with a younger cast to make the story more believ-


able as a young-couple-just-starting-out-facing-hardship story. How about this for a casting coup to capture younger audiences: Johnny Depp and Winona Ryder as the couple and Mickey Rourke as the billionaire?

People in Las Vegas will enjoy the casino scenes. Lyne's unique close-ups of roulette balls and tumbling dice are fun for a while, but he milks this effect for all it's worth, and quite frankly, it becomes nauseating.

Although they're not the richest and most developed, the characters in the film are still interesting and easy to identify with because Lyne portrays them as human, not

Indecent Proposal is darker than your garden variety Hollywood film because it tests the bonds between love and sex and the dark consequences that may ensue. Not exactly cheery stuff, but real world, bubba.

Indecent Proposal
Starring Robert Redford, Demi Moore and Woody Harrelson.
Directed by Adrian Lyne.



picture-perfect Hollywood dreamboats. He uses cold, harsh lighting at times, exposing the wrinkles, scars and physical imperfections of the cast. It makes them that much more real to know that they are human.


It's easy for a man to put himself in homely Harrelson's shoes, because what guy hasn't been dumped by his girlfriend for a better looking or richer guy? That is unless you're some mucho macho stud boy like Erik Estrada or Weird Al Yankovic or something

I'll also give Lyne credit for not making this a convectional, mainstream movie although it boasts a star-studded cast.

Ratings Scale

8

- The Goods•
Smooth and Satisfying like a 40 of 8 Ball
- Solid Flick•
Cherry, like a '76 Econoline
- Tame•
Have a Day
- Cheesy•
Like Fromage

 Monsieur La Trine says aaah sheet!

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