

'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 aftershocks felt when Micheal Douglas dances a little too close to the devilish Glenn Close and she torments him and his family. In 91/2 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.

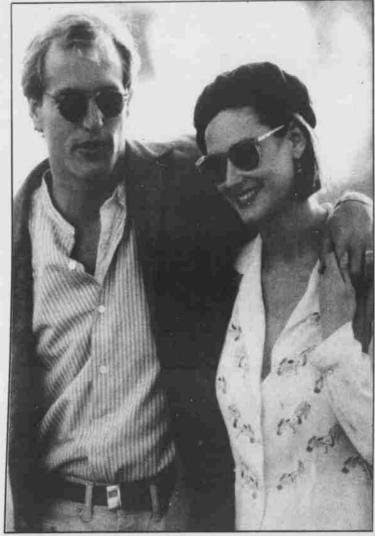
Demi Moore and Woody Harrelson star as a young couple who having lost all their money at the Las Vegas Hilton, are propositioned by a billionaire (Robert Redford) to allow Moore to spend the night with him.

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 believable as a young-couple-juststarting-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.

film

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

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

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

stud boy like Erik Estrada or

Weird Al Yankovic or some-

not making this a convential,

mainstream movie although

it boasts a star-studded cast.

I'll also give Lyne credit for

Its easy for a man to put

Starring Robert Redford, Demi Moore and

Directed by Adrian Lyne.

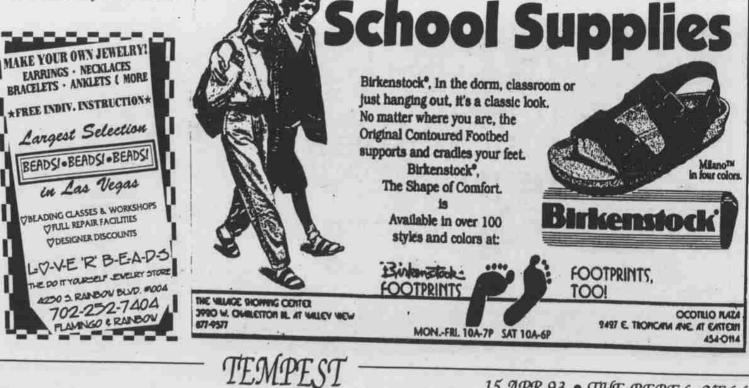
Woody Harrelson.

are human.

thing

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.





15 APR 93 . THE REBEL YELL