

Bedroom Window rated B for boredom

Bedroom Window
 Capitol Square
 DEG

by Dragos Ruiu

Movie recipe one:
 Take one ex-Funny Man actor who is trying to break out of a comedy stereotype and be 'serious'. (Steve Guttenberg)
 Take one big movie production group that is used to spending BIG BUCKS on movies and wants to break out of their big budget flop stereotype. (De Laurentiis of 007, Dune, and Tai Pan fame)
 Take one suspense novel (*The Witness*) and translate it into a B-grade screen play with a plot that has been used for more movies than you can remember.
 Mix and bake in front of an audience for two hours and you get: BOREDOM.
 This recipe was faithfully applied to the *Bedroom Window*. As the title and the ad campaign suggests, this movie is another 'eyewitness gets into trouble suspense movie'. Steve Guttenberg, a la the corporate yuppie type, is having an affair with his boss' wife. But lo and behold, it's just his luck that the wife witnesses an attempted rape/murder through his bedroom window. She can't go to the police because she would then have to explain what she was doing there at 2:15 in the morning... etc.

So Steve Guttenberg pretends he saw the assault, and the trouble starts. The problem is that the trouble is very predictable.
 This movie did not have to be as mediocre as it is, the script is not that bad, even with a re-cycled plot. The characters could have been interesting had they not been acted as cardboard cut-outs. With a little bit of interesting directing, the suspense could have been played up. With a little different casting, the villain could have been terrifying; instead of coming across as some sort of Pee Wee Herman gone mad (or is mad implicit?).
 To be fair, this movie could have been a lot worse. It could have turned out like a Canadian-produced piece of schlock named *Bedroom Eyes*. (Which, amazingly enough, had exactly the same plot! And almost the same title and movie poster! Hmmm.) But it could have been much better.
 Steve Guttenberg actually managed to act, but he was surrounded by the biggest selection of bad character portrayals of the year. The two generic-looking cop characters trying to look Eastwood-fierce became comedy. The serial killer villain would have made a better Smurf than a villain. And the boss' wife trying to do the bitchy rich dame, a la Joan Collins, came out like

something you would see on a soap opera — campy and tacky.
 The director also spent too much effort on trying to titillate the audience with male and female anatomy. No matter what the horny middle-aged woman behind me thought (praised and babbled) of the villains 'buns', all it served to do was distract the viewer from the thinly stretching plot. The most awkward scenes were punctuated by neighbours coming out in thin, loose bathrobes, male characters leering at pretty girls, or needless un-erotic nudity in the shower, the bathroom or wherever.

The suspenseful scenes were all bungled with needless distractions like semi-nude women or Budweiser trucks blocking our hero's view. (Probably supposed to increase the tension, but failed.) It is tough to get caught up in the suspense of heroine with the looming spectre of the villain behind her when the director cuts back to Guttenberg arguing with the stupid radio dispatcher.
 All in all, this was at best a B-grade flick. The Laurentiis group has certainly broken their big budget flop reputation, *Bedroom Window* is a low budget flop.




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TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. *The Garbagemen* — Take It Away (Craps/CC)
2. *The Silos* — About Her Steps (Record Collect/Pollution Control)
3. *Adrian Below* — Desire Caught by the Tail (Island/US)
4. *Robert Cray* — Strong Persuader (Polygram)
5. *Jellyfishbabies* — Jellyfishbabies (Plot/CC)
6. *Albert Collins* — Cold Snap (Alligator/WEA)
7. *Various Artists* — Class of '86 Sampler (Glitch/Pollution Control)
8. *SNFU* — If You Swear, You'll Catch No Fish (Better Youth Canada/CC)
9. *Culturcide* — Tacky Souvenirs Of... (Independent/Pollution Control)
10. *The Mighty Lemon Drops* — Happy Head (Sire/WEA)

Singles, EP's & Tapes

1. *Havi Human* — Human Eighty-Six (Graven Image/Pollution Control)
2. *Blue Trapeze* — Mask & Marquee (Independent/Pollution Control)
3. *The Wombats* — Mudpuddles (Homestead/Dutch East India)
4. *Santo* — Music from the Street (The Source Unltd./US)
5. *Young Fresh Fellows* — Beer Money (Poplama/US)
6. *Three On a Hill* — Biting On Tin Foil (Deep Ellum/Pollution Control)
7. *The Brigade* — Come Together (Better Youth Organization)
8. *Vital Sines* — Big Dark Dreams (Fringe/CC)
9. *The Aviators* — Deed To a Ranch (Lost Arts/US)
10. *Psychotic Norman* — Davey Jones/Water Cooler (Grimly/Pollution Control)



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