



ACTION JACKSON

With a title like 'Action Jackson' how can you go wrong? Quite easily it seems. A certain part of the film/video market has always been reserved for high energy orgies of destruction and bloodshed with one of those tough-but-nice guy sumbitch male leads that has as many one-liners as the number of slugs pumped into the bad chappies. Here is this month's example and the hard dude in question is the some time Rocky sidekick Carl Weathers. Carl actually pulls it off quite well, managing to convince all the car crash fiends in the audience that he could be a lot more extreme -but hey, when you're labelled with the nickname action don't expect the lifestyle of a school crossing attendant. Basically

we have a really nasty slimebag of a car company exec that is systematically knocking off union bosses so he can run the business in his own ruthless way. "But Honey I love you!" murmurs this horrid shit as he blows his wife's intestines all over the Laura Ashley print wall paper after he finds out she knows what's up. The love interest is none other than the slinky Vanity who is being regularly jacked up with Heroin by the villain. Of course when Wacko Jacko shows up on the scene Cold Turkey has never been so easy.

The stunts are spectacular but then again so is the extraordinarily wooden acting and appalling dialogue. Sometimes, however, there comes a point when this sort of oafish crap fits into the evening's entertainment quite nicely. When your brain is out of town for a couple of hours here is the video for you. It certainly worked for me.

Steve Griffiths

HEARTBREAK HOTEL

Frustrated by smalltown attitudes and the crumbling state of his family, life aspiring rock'n'roller Johnny Wolfe

played by CHARLIE SCHLATTER knows there's only one person who can step out of his mother's dreams and start things shaking in his sleepy hometown - none other than the King himself, Elvis Presley.

After successfully scheming to kidnap the legendary singer, Johnny and his family find themselves "all shook up" with a new sense of hope and excitement when Elvis joins their household for a few whirlwind days. Yet the family is not alone in benefitting from the mythical performers stay; returned to his roots and removed from the insidious web of celebrity that usually surrounds him, Elvis is faced with some hard truths about his place in the music world and the man he has become in recent years.

The movie is fairly enjoyable if you realise that it is in the form of a fantasy scenario. If you take the movie as truth then you'll find yourself picking it a part. If you look at it as a type of "what if" situation then you'll appreciate the efforts of director CHRIS COLUMBUS.

One problem, I found, even if you do play along with the poor plotline is the fact that

Elvis, played by DAVID KEITH, doesn't even look or act like Elvis. You really need to use your imagination here. However I do sympathize with Columbus because it must have been difficult trying to find somebody who totally embodied Elvis. Although they immediately ruled out the possibility of using an Elvis impersonator, the deep and continuing nature of Elvis's popularity made them wary of using an actor whose fame would detract from the character. However they knew that their decision would be subject to scrutiny since Elvis was something different to everybody.

The great thing about "Heartbreak Hotel" is that it is a fantasy about what could have happened if someone had just grabbed Elvis and said, "Hey! You used to be cool! You used to be a real treat! What are you doing dressed in rhinestone covered white suits and playing Vegas Showrooms?" (well said that man! - Ed.)

You see, the movie is situated in 1972, in Ohio, (even though it was filmed in Austin Texas) so by this time the 1950 rebel Elvis has become an idol to his older audience and a wimp to the teens of the time.

Probably the best part of the movie is actor CHARLIE SCHLATTER, who plays Marie's son and budding rocker Johnny Wolfe. He has become one of the screen's hottest young actors as a result of his work in both "Bright Lights, Big City" where he played MICHAEL J. FOX'S younger brother, and in the comedy, "18 Again."

As far as TUESDAY WELD'S acting went I thought it was some of the worst I ever saw. She, of course probably landed this part because of her former work with Elvis where she starred opposite him in "Wild in The Country."

An interesting thing about one of the key sets in the movie, the restaurant "Green Pastures", is the fact that it's one of the 100 best restaurants on the world. (I still bet it doesn't have anything on Mom's home-cooking.

One other good point about the movie is the soundtrack, that is if you're and Elvis fan. DAVID KEITH even delivers new versions of "Ready Teddy", "Love Me" and a promising duet with CHARLIE SCHLATTER.

I give the movie a 5+10. I was very disappointed. Soporific Elvis is alive, I wonder what he thought?

Larry Graham

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