

# Skin Deep what you expect from John Ritter

*Skin Deep* \*\*  
Cineplex Eaton Centre

review by Alan Small

**Z**ach Hutton is to women like Bob Probert is to alcohol. By the end of the movie, you find out that Hutton is exactly like Probert, a slave to the bottle.

In *Skin Deep*, John Ritter, who plays Hutton, has more chances to go all the way than Casanova. This film laughs in the face of our AIDS-fearing society as Hutton beds with countless beauties throughout the film.

Hutton is a Pulitzer Prize winning writer who has a major league case of writer's block. He tries to solve his problem by drowning his sorrows with wine, women, and song.

Like Jack Tripper, who Ritter played in the television series *Three's Company*, Hutton lusts after young lovelies nearly every minute he's on the screen. Only in this movie, he doesn't act like a homosexual. Not by a longshot.

Hutton starts the Blake Edwards comedy by getting caught in the sack by his mistress, played by Denise Crosby. On the other side of the bed is her hairdresser. The mistress puts a gun to Hutton's head. Then his wife drops in.

His wife, his mistress, and presumably his hairdresser leave him and Hutton is left with his bartender, his lawyer and his analyst (all men), and the next nubile body



John Ritter (horizontal) and ladyfriends in *Skin Deep*. Maybe now Mr. Furley will believe he's not a homosexual.

that walks by.

He spends the next hour of the movie falling in and out of love with girls who torch his piano (Julianne Phillips, the Boss's ex-wife) and put him through the rigors of thorough marathon aerobic workouts (bodybuilder Raye Hollit). He also spends a lot of time chatting with his bartender, played by Vincent Gardenia, and getting frustrated by his analyst,

played dryly by Michael Kidd.

Hutton also is falling all over the place, Ritter's best comedic talent. Ritter is the next actor in a long line of Blake Edwards floppers which includes Peter Sellers and Dudley Moore. Ritter proves he belongs in the same league as those two in one scene after he leaves a health spa. He definitely looked like someone who didn't have any control of his body.

Hutton slowly becomes more and more of an alcoholic during the movie, another Edwards trademark, but the ending is predictable. That predictable ending is the down-point for this comedy. Ritter is hilarious throughout this romp, but even his physical style can't save the ending. His women are played like the airheads they are, save for his ex-wife and his ex-mother-in-law, who naturally hates Hutton's guts.

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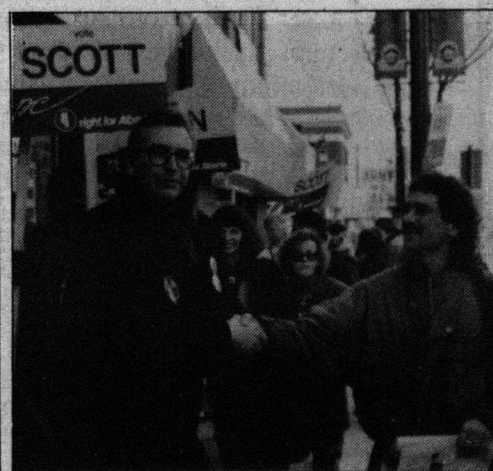
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