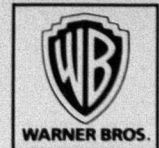


PINK CADILLAC



CLINT EASTWOOD, DRIVING FOR LAUGHS

Comedy isn't the first idea that comes to mind when you hear the name Clint Eastwood – not when his career

has been highlighted by *Bird*, the grim violence of *Dirty Harry*, the brooding atmosphere of *Tightrope* and the out-and-out terror of *Play Misty for Me* and *The Beguiled*.

But remember Clint and the orangutan? *Every Which Way But Loose* and *Any Which Way You Can* were pure slapstick and two of Eastwood's most popular hits. And if *Bronco Billy's* gentle send-up of Clint's own macho image didn't quite click with audiences, it still remained a funny film and one of Eastwood's own favorites.

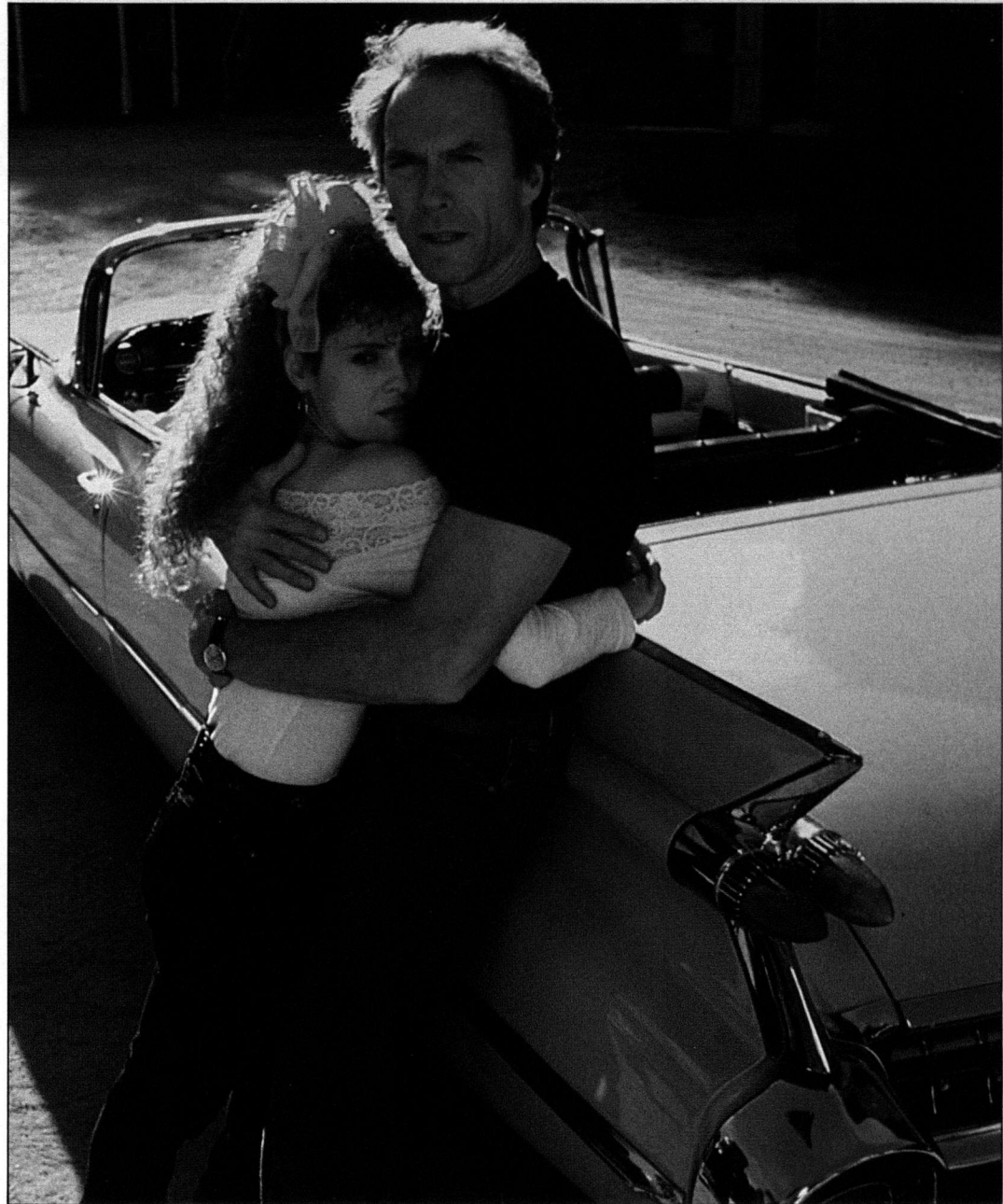
Eastwood returns to comedy in his latest outing, *Pink Cadillac* but the producers – Eastwood's own Malpaso company – assure us there will be plenty of hard action and they've brought along director Buddy Van Horn to give it the same flash he gave to *Dirty Harry's* last case, *The Dead Pool*.

Pink Cadillac sees Eastwood playing Tommy Nowak, an easy-going guy who makes his living tracking bail jumpers. But Nowak's no hard guy. Try imagining Clint as a master of disguise, posing as a rodeo clown, a country music DJ, or a Las Vegas casino huckster. That's how he gets close enough to slip the cuffs on.

The pink cadillac of the title belongs to co-star Bernadette Peters. Peters is a fed up innocent with problems. Busted for passing home-made money, she has an eight month old baby to care for and an ex-con husband heavily involved in the white supremacist movement. Her solution, she figures, is Reno, Nevada – Divorce City, USA.

But the husband has other ideas – nasty ones that involve Peters, Eastwood and a hidden mountain camp that features a seriously deranged shooting gallery – just the place for a hard-action finish.

Bernadette Peters has spent the past five years or so concentrating on the Broadway stage where her song-and-dance talents have brought her popular and critical acclaim. Her gift for comedy and convincing dramatic acting will be well-remembered by anyone who saw *The Jerk* or *Pennies From Heaven*. With the Broadway ex-



perience behind her, we can expect her to be even better.

Eastwood has comic gifts, too. It may not be so apparent when he speaks, but it takes a better-than-average actor with a first-rate sense of timing to give real menace to those 'make my day' *Dirty Harryisms*.

Eastwood's feel for comedy shows up in odd physical details: *Dirty Harry's* decidedly uncool sunglasses or the hot dog in his

mouth that makes a mockery of his heroic stance. It shows up in the indignities he heaps on his characters: Harry taken for a peeping Tom or the alcoholic bumbler he plays in *The Gauntlet*.

But mostly it shows up in that tough-guy face. With just a narrowing of the eyes and a flaring of the nostrils, Eastwood manages to convey comic distaste, squeamishness, cowardice and somehow, like Inspector Clouseau, never lets on

that he knows what he's doing.

The movie to take full advantage of Clint Eastwood's comic talents is the movie that would take his heroic-seeming character and dump it in one embarrassing predicament after another. *Pink Cadillac* looks like it's aiming to do just that.

— Andrew Dowler

