



Michelle Pfeiffer slithers up and scorches Jeff Bridges.

## Fab Michelle steals Baker Boys

**The Fabulous Baker Boys**  
Cineplex Odeon Cinemas

review by Alexandra Parr

Frank and Jack Baker have been playing the cocktail-lounge circuit together for fifteen years. They played just for fun for fifteen years before that. They've been in all the seedy hotels, highway motels and cheap bars around — and not only are they starting to get rejected — their act is lacking a lot of pizzazz. Time for a change, they decide: And guess what? They add a female singer to their act — not just any female singer, mind you — and just like that, success comes their way. Predictable, yes, but *The Fabulous Baker Boys*, the latest film from Sidney Pollack (best known for *Out of Africa* and *Tootsie*) eventually succeeds with strong acting performances from an experienced cast.

Frank and Jack Baker are played by real-life brothers Beau and Jeff Bridges. This is the first time they've acted together in a movie. They make a good team, although their characters are such complete opposites that one tends to forget the sibling relationship. There are a few scenes that serve to remind you, though; at one point Jack, totally out of character, says into his microphone before beginning a show, "I just want to say one thing. I love you, Frank." He says it with a trace of sarcasm and irony, but oddly, you realize he's serious.

Michelle Pfeiffer is superb as Susie Diamond, a gum-chewing, tough-talking woman who only smokes French cigarettes — not at all what Jack and Frank are looking for to add some class to their act... or so they think. The scene depicting her arrival at the Bakers' auditions is one of the most hilarious in the film, and as it turns out, she really does have an amazing voice. *The Fabulous Baker Boys*

goes one step further in proving Pfeiffer's versatility as an actress.

On the surface, Susie is cool, rarely letting her emotions show. She's a former escort girl and she has been around the block once or twice, but something prevents her from opening up very much. When she slithers along Jack's piano and scorches the audience with a provocative version of the song "Makin' Whoopee," though, she becomes a totally different person.

Unfortunately, it is somewhat predictable that Susie and Jack will succumb to an affair at some point; there is a great deal of sexual tension building between them throughout the movie. The changes that occur as a result of their relationship mark the turning point in the movie — and in the lives of the characters. Susie and Jack are something of a mismatched pair, and this provides an unexpected element that makes up a bit for the movie's other predictabilities.

Jack is withdrawn, mysterious, and complicated. He's afraid of getting close to anyone, unlike his overbearing brother — who is married with a kid, a station wagon and a house in the suburbs. Jack hides his unmistakable talent as a jazz pianist from everyone, perhaps even himself. It is Susie who eventually shows him that sacrificing his life and his desires so that Frank can put food on the family table is simply a big mistake.

The movie features a number of great jazz numbers, which you'll probably appreciate if you're a jazz enthusiast. The movie's strength, however, lies in its realistic examination of family bonds and the role they play in reaching one's dreams. The Bridges brothers make *The Fabulous Baker Boys* a winner — and the presence of Michelle Pfeiffer probably doesn't hurt either.

## Blurbs

### Aliens Ate My Mother

UVic student Doug Stewart has come up with a wild and wacky new game called *Tabloid Charades*. Doug claims that the idea for the game came to him "after he was kidnapped by Aliens one night last October." And guess what, he's holding *The First Annual Tabloid Headline Writing Contest*. Yes, now you too can match wits with the editors of such illustrious publications as *The National Enquirer* and *The Star*. Doug wants you to match such warped wonders as "Two-Headed Pit Bull Rips Itself To Shreds," or "Frozen Fuehrer Found In Frankfurt Freezer." Entries should be sent to: ALIENS ATE MY MOTHER, c/o Tabloid Charades, 210-1445 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, Canada V8S 1Z4. Winners will be announced November 7th. All winners receive a free game.

### Writers Guild Holds Contest

December 31, 1989 is the deadline for submission of books and registered plays to the Writers Guild of Alberta's eighth annual competition to recognize excellence in writing by Alberta authors. Submissions should be sent to: Writers Guild of Alberta, Awards Program, 10523-100 ave., Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 0A8. For further information write the above address or phone: 426-5892.

### Free Concert

The Alberta Ballet will be performing in the Myer Horowitz (Sub) Theatre in conjunction with their Alberta University/College Tour to promote dance awareness on campus. The free concert/demonstration will be held in the theatre Friday, October 20 at 12:00 noon. For more information contact the Theatre Office at 492-4764.

### Toga Party

Nothing to do on Halloween? Well, the Friends of the Citadel are presenting The Toga Party. 25 bucks gets you into a reception at 6:30, a performance of *Julius Caesar* at 7:30, a dance at 9:30 pm, and a buffet at midnight. Contact the Citadel Box Office for more information and tickets at 425-1820.

### Northern Light Cabaret

Northern Light Theatre is holding a fundraiser at Flashbacks on Sunday, October 22 at 7:00 pm. Besides a dance, there will also be entertainment provided by local actors and singers. The evening is also intended to introduce the public to their opening play *Treacheries of the Blue Angel*. Patrons are encouraged to dress in 40's "film noir" style as the entire event will be filmed with bits to appear in the actual production. Tickets can be reserved by calling the theatre at 471-1586. Tickets cost \$6.00 in advance and \$7.00 at the door.

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## T-Shirt Giveaway!

We got T's! *Black Rain* ones. If you want one, be one of the first nine people at room 282 SUB at 11:00 am Wednesday, October 18 with the correct answer to this really difficult question: What TV series did Michael Douglas star in?

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