

# Swayze can't save Roadhouse



By DIAHANN NADEAU  
Herald Special

Roadhouse is the kind of movie that makes me feel that all movies are pointless, that life is too short to ever sit through one again. This film ranks as one of the most irritating and senseless I have ever seen in my life. The only good thing about it is the Jeff Healey Band, and I think it would be smarter to just buy the album and forget the show.

Patrick Swayze plays Dalton, a one-name man with only one thing on his mind - being nice. Nice means killing people with a weapon instead of ripping their throats out bare-handed. That's Dalton's idea of nice.

Dalton has a degree in philosophy so naturally he became a bouncer. But hey, he's a philosophical bouncer. And he takes on a job to clean up Tilman's (Kevin Tighe) bar thoughtfully, of course. But a bouncer's life is not

an easy one. No, it's not enough that Dalton cleans up the bar - he has to clean up the town. Rid it of vermin like Brad Wesley (Ben Gazzara).

During his quest Dalton meets a lot of sleazy women, a lot of fat, ugly, mean men, and one caring doctor (Kelly Lynch). When you spend your life being stitched up, a hospital is probably the only place to meet decent women. Mind you, he still manages to find one who dresses like a tart and has never heard of safe sex.

There is the inevitable confrontation between Brad's men and Dalton; the problem is that it is stretched over two hours. (Or was it six?) The final face-off is a long time coming, and utterly revolting. But hey, Dalton gets the girl. And Brad Wesley? He no longer owns Jasper, Missouri. And the world will sleep better for it, no doubt.

Patrick Swayze is awful. If I ever see him ever, ever, again in any movie, it will be too soon. He spends his time naked or bleeding, and I find it hard to call that acting. Not to mention the fact that I loathe his body.

Ben Gazzara is just old Ben Gazzara, and his expressions never

vary. Kelly Lynch is unbelievable, ridiculous, totally unrealistic as a DOCTOR. As another little tramp, sure, she makes the grade.

Kevin Tighe is wasted as Tilman, the bar owner. There are two good performances in this movie, but they still don't make it worth watching. Jeff Healey is excellent as (what else) the blind white blues guitar player. And good old Sam Elliott is damned attractive as Dalton's buddy Wade. Unfortunately, the movie isn't about Wade, and his appearance is all too brief.

There is an amazing, gut-numbing amount of violence in this movie. And more naked flesh than I thought would ever be shown in a small town cinema. The combination makes the whole world seem shoddy and cheap and a nasty place to live. I found Roadhouse very depressing because it cheapens everything - especially sex and life and death.

No doubt there are lots of people out there who are looking for a film full of violence, sex, and good music. By all means, see Roadhouse is that's what you like. The rest of us would be better employed cleaning the kitty litter.

# Don't see No Evil

SEE NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL (R) Three's a charm, they always say. But not in the case of this slapstick comedy set in the Big Apple - the third movie to pair Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder.

Pryor is blind and Wilder is deaf, and, to make matters worse, the thrown-together pair are implicated in a murder. Meanwhile, the bad guys (and one bad girl) are after a gold coin that is really a coveted, high-tech super-conductor. That's about it for plot. The movie functions as a string of blind and deaf gags, with scatological and sexual jokes thrown in for good measure.

Not that there is much good about this movie. Pryor looks emaciated

and exudes an air of desperation. If you loved him in his brilliant, searous one-man shows, it's almost impossible not to be disappointed by his frantic, bug-eyed mugging here and in other recent flicks. Wilder has been, well, wilder. A climactic showdown of equally blind opponents has the tiniest spark of wit, but that's all. Oh, there's a car chase, too.

Is this movie's instant box-office success proof that die-hard Pryor and Wilder fans will watch them in anything? Or do a lot of people now accept humiliation and off-color insults as the equivalent of frolicsome, lightweight entertainment? GRADE: \*

## Want to host Country Music Week?



Pst! Want to attract Canada's top country and western singers to your town?

Just ask local municipal officials to put in a bid to host Country Music Week.

The board of directors of the Canadian Country Music Association is inviting communities interested in hosting Country Music Week in 1993 or 1994 to submit letters of intent - with a preliminary outline - to the CCMA.

This year's event is being held in Ottawa, Sept. 4 to 10. Among the highlights is the annual Canadian Country Music Awards show, Sept. 9, which CTV will televise live.

Chip and Dale are back! A new animated series from Disney Studios, Chip 'N' Dale Rescue Rangers, makes its Canadian TV premiere on Family Channel, June 3.

The chipmunks, leaders of a secret international organization, tackle unsolved mysteries and odd-ball crimes in the 13-part series.

CTV wants you to spend three Sundays in June doing tests.

On June 11, you can try The Ticker Test. This one-hour special, hosted by Al Waxman, includes 25 self-assessment questions designed to help viewers evaluate their own "heart health risk."

And how's your BMI? The Body Test, June 18, looks at "realistic" weight ranges for healthy bodies. Hosts Dianne Buckner and Waxman lead viewers through 20 questions about diet, exercise, lifestyle and BMI (Body Mass Index), a measurement standard used by a number of health organizations.

Once you have determined the status of your ticker and BMI, you face another exam.

The National Drug Test, June 25, examines the physiological, social and economic impact of such drugs as cocaine, marijuana, tobacco

and alcohol. Jack McGaw, Martin Short, Lorraine Segato and Olympic bronze medalist Dave Steen are the co-hosts. As well as posing self-assessment questions, the special profiles former drug addicts.

All three shows were televised earlier. This is the first time they have been aired as a series.

Edward VII, who succeeded Queen Victoria on the British throne in 1901, once wanted to venture across Niagara Falls on a tightrope.

While on a visit to Canada (when still a prince), he passed Niagara Falls on a day when daredevil Blondin walked across the falls on a tightrope.

Blondin offered to put the prince in a wheelbarrow and take him for a ride on the tightrope.

Edward said yes. His staff put their feet down - and kept the prince's feet on solid ground.

This anecdote is one of the many colorful tales Elizabeth Longford has included in The Oxford Book of Royal Anecdotes. Covering the reigns of 61 monarchs from Boudicca (AD 61) to Queen Elizabeth II, this collection of

stories about England's kings and queens vividly brings history to life.

The anthology (from Oxford Publishers) is being released May 26.

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