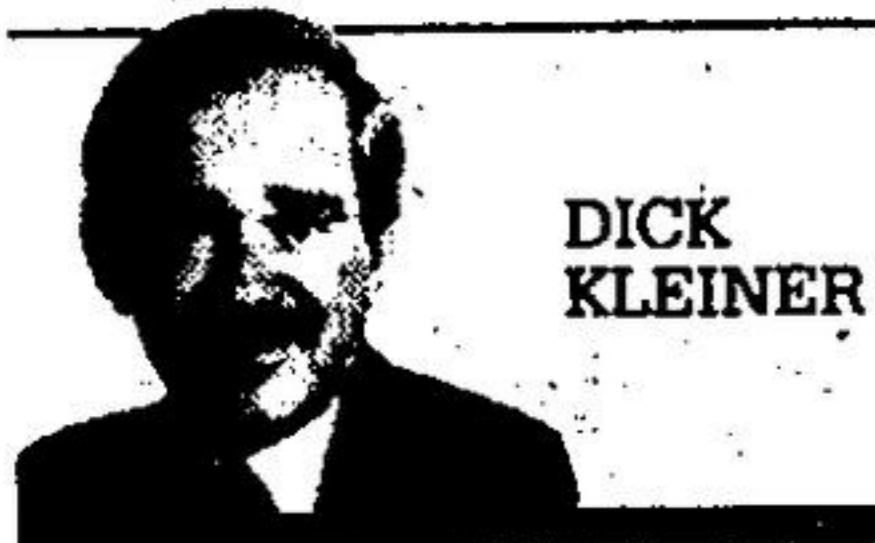


TV's Josh Taylor is earth-bound 'Pretty Woman' is bearable

ASK DICK KLEINER



DICK KLEINER

Q. I have a bet going with a friend at work. He says that Josh Taylor, who plays Michael Hogan on "The Hogan Family," is a real airline pilot. I say he isn't. Will you please settle this? — F.J.B., New Albany, Ind.

A. The only flying Taylor does is as a passenger — he is not a licensed pilot.

Q. Why are most TV shows set in Los Angeles? — J.F., Plainsboro, N.J.

A. A simple question of logistics. Most TV shows are made in Los Angeles, so it is much easier to have them set there. All you have to do is step outside the studio and you are on location.

Q. Besides Henry Fonda, who were the stars of "The Grapes of Wrath"? — C., Hammond, La.

A. That film featured a flock of the top character actors of the day — Jane Darwell, John Carradine, Charley Grapewin, Russell Simpson and John Qualen.

Q. Why do actors so often leave their car lights on in movie scenes, even after shutting the car off and getting out? Is this to avoid stage light reflections? — R.L., Negaunee, Mich.

A. Since your question came in, I've been watching for that quirk, and I haven't noticed it. If it happens, it is probably just an oversight. I can think of no technical reason why it should be done.

Q. I would like to know when Mickey Mouse was born. I say the mid-'30s, but my wife says it was in the '20s. Who is right? — B.D., DuQuoin, Ill.

A. The first Mickey Mouse cartoon was released in 1928, which makes your wife the winner this time.

Q. What happened to Kene Holliday, who played the investigator on "Matlock" last year? — E.W., Saginaw, Mich.

A. The official reason for his departure is that, after three seasons with "Matlock," Holliday "decided to pursue other acting interests." Unofficially, however, he had a few problems and the parting was mutually desirable.

Q. For years I've been trying to find the name of a movie starring Judy Garland and George Murphy. She played two parts — mother and daughter. I first saw it when I was 7 or 8 years old and loved it. — R.A., Follansbee, W.Va.

A. That was called "Little Nelly Kelly."

Q. I think Doris Day made the remake of the classic film "My Favorite Wife." Right? If I'm correct, what was the name of the remake, who were her two co-stars and is it out on VCR? — B.L., Erie, Pa.

A. You are correct. It was called "Move Over, Darling," and her co-stars were James Garner and Polly Bergen. It was released in '63, and it is not out on a cassette.

By DIAHANA NADEAU

Herald Special

Take a very stiff, asexual actor, one sappy director, a dinosaur plot, and what have you got? Pretty Woman. Sounds like a recipe for disaster, doesn't it? Well, yes and no. Pretty Woman is not a good movie, yet it has some appeal, all due to the very magnetic Julia Roberts. She isn't going to win any awards for her acting here, but it's almost impossible not to be enchanted by her presence. And because she is in most of the scenes, Pretty Woman is a whole lot more bearable than it has any right to be.

AT THE MOVIES

Richard Gere plays Edward, a corporate raider with too much money and not enough emotions. Roberts is Vivian, a not-too-long-on-the-streets hooker. They meet, he hires her for a week, they fall in love, live happily ever after. It's hard to believe anyone would film a story like this in 1990. The question is why? The answer lies in exploiting Robert's growing stardom and selling a pretty good soundtrack. It's hard to believe there was any other reason, other than the hope of making a ton of money. Of course, what other motive is

Entertainment

there in Hollywood?

This movie is so full of holes it's amazing it doesn't disappear down one of them. Vivian is simply too beautiful and bright to be convincing as a two-bit hooker. Her reson (a series of bad boyfriends), hardly explains anything. If she has to be in the business, she should be bringing home the big bucks, not just barely making rent money.

When she goes into a Rodeo Drive store to buy clothes in her street outfit, she is snubbed and sent away. Give us a break — as if Madonna look-alikes don't have a ton of money and wear just as little clothing when they shop. It just doesn't play.

Gere is convincing as a non-emotional type, but we never believe he is warming up. His love scenes with Roberts don't set the screen on fire, they can't even strike a match. It's hard to find another leading man with as little sex appeal as Gere. He may be good-looking, but it stops there. There is absolutely no chemistry between him and Roberts, which certainly damages the picture further.

Roberts does not turn in a

memorable performance by any means, but she is so very pretty that it seems irrelevant. She is beautiful in unconventional ways — hers is not a classic face, but it is an irresistible one. Too bad the love scenes are so dead — one wonders how they'd play with anyone other than Gere.

Laura San Giacomo (Sex, Lies, and Videotape) plays Vivian's roommate hooker, Hector Elizondo is an understanding hotel manager, and Ralph Bellamy is a businessman. No one is awful.

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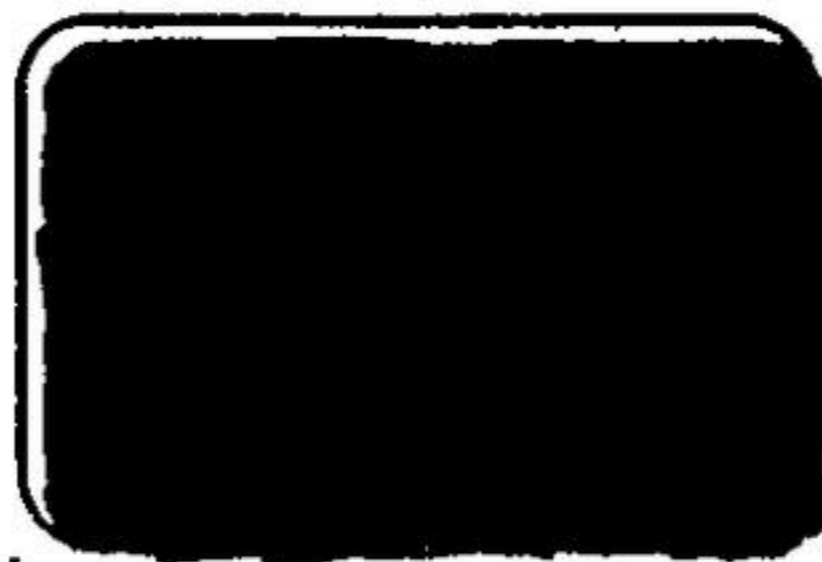


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