

Entertainment

Michael J. Fox must choose For Love or Money

By Patrick Freestone

Michael J. Fox stars as a concierge in a luxurious New York Hotel who dreams of a better life in director Barry

Sonnenfeld's new romantic comedy, "For Love or Money".

Fox plays Douglas Ireland, a concierge at New York's

Bradbury Hotel. Doug is a smart, razor-sharp operator who is able to score theatre and sports tickets on a moment's notice, while doing

some marriage counseling on the side. He is a miracle worker.

However, his dreams extend beyond his job. Doug

wants to own his own hotel.

To that end, he enters into a partnership with a parasitic financier played convincingly by Anthony Higgins. For Doug, everything is perfect ... or is it?

Doug meets Andy Hall (Gabrielle Anwar), a struggling young singer, and falls in love. Doug is faced with a dilemma - does he go "For Love or Money?"

"For Love or Money" is very reminiscent of the romantic comedies of the 1940's where typically, the hero has to make a choice between true love and his own greed; invariably making the right choice. If made in the 40's, "For Love or Money" might star Cary Grant and be

directed by Billy Wilder.

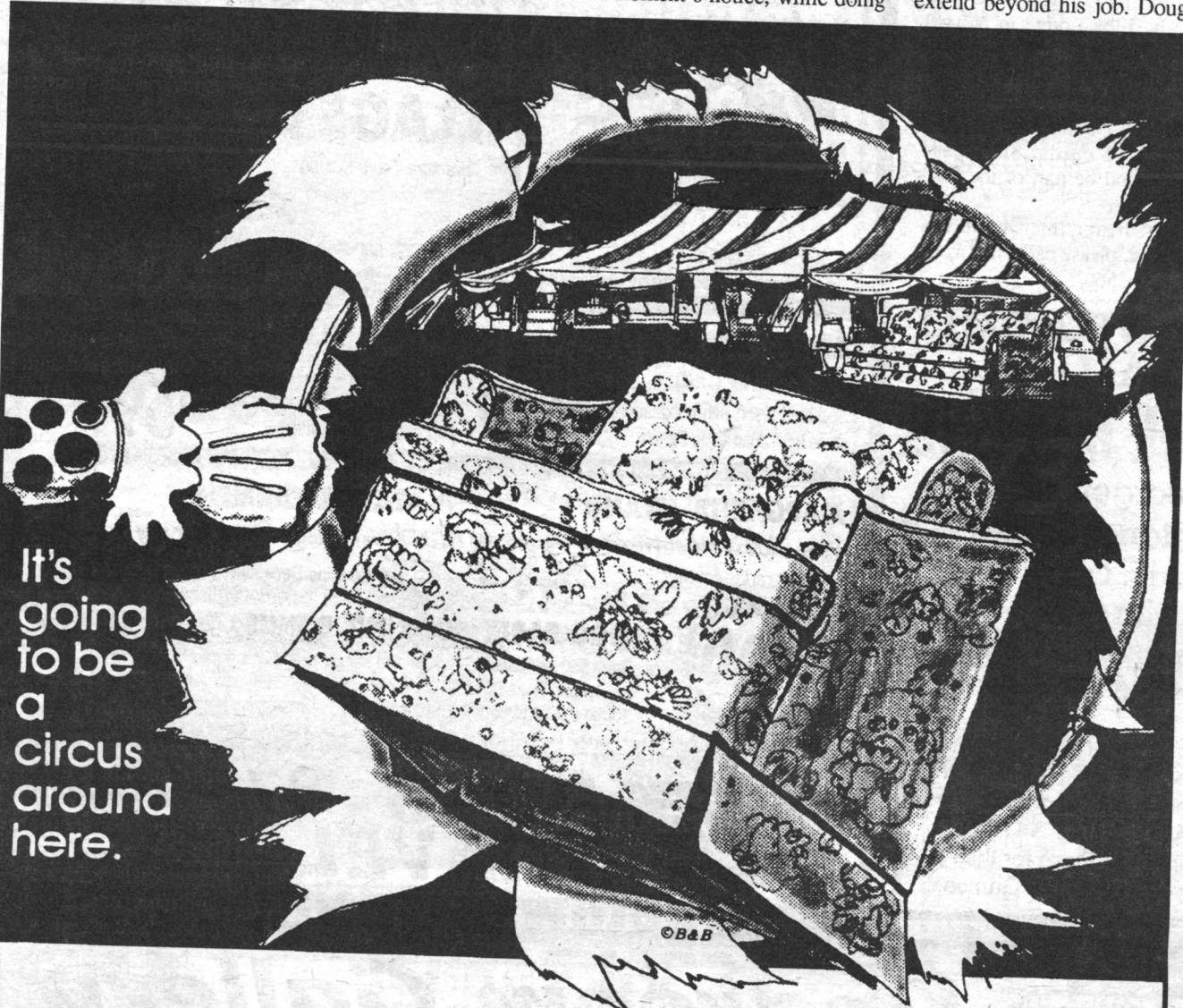
Fox does not immediately inspire comparisons to Cary Grant. However, he does fit nicely into the role of Douglas Ireland. Michael J. Fox has made a history of playing smart and money-hungry young men who come to realize they have more morals than they originally thought (Family Ties, The Secret of My Success, Doc Hollywood).

Fox delivers an energetic and confident performance. He is aided by some funny and interesting supporting characters and situations at the hotel. More exploration of life in the hotel would have been most welcome.

The film stumbles in the direction. Sonnenfeld, whose career has been primarily as a cinematographer, stumbles badly during the love story between Fox and Anwar. Anwar's character comes off as naive and impish. We, the audience, always believe Fox can do much better. Therefore, we don't cheer for the two lovers to get together.

"For Love or Money" is formula film-making which almost ends in disaster because of uninspired direction.

However, it is the sparkling performance by Michael J. Fox that gives this film the love in its heart and the money in its pocket to succeed.



It's going to be a circus around here.

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