



At the movies

'Ladyhawke' an empty epic

Richard Donner's "Ladyhawke" is a typical big budget studio epic - opulent, flashy, and at its core, empty. Everything from the glossy, color scheme to the postured performances and over-worked musical score (produced by Mr. Gloss himself, Alan Parsons) lets the audience know that they are in for some very pretentious filmmaking.

The premise behind "Ladyhawke" is that lovers are ever together but always apart. Etienne Navare (Rutger Hauer) is a brave knight out for revenge in the city of Aquila. He travels only by day, accompanied by an ever-present hawk. At night he disappears and a young lady, Isabeau of Anjou (Michelle Pfeiffer), appears with a friendly but dangerous wolf. They are lovers that have been put under a curse by a demonic bishop (John Wood); they can never touch as humans, and the curse can never be lifted.

The nominal hero of the film, however, is not Etienne but Phillipe "The Mouse" Gaston (Matthew Broderick), an egotistical young pickpocket who seems to miraculously escape all his predicaments. He is at one point saved by Etienne, who has plans to use "The Mouse" to help him break into the guarded city.

A rather slight story is dragged on interminably by director Donner, whose epic-like ap-

proach tries to ring far more out of the tale than is there. The visuals, composed and captured by cinematographer Vittorio Storaro, are elegant but almost too perfect. And Donner drags sequences far beyond any logical length. I suppose he thinks he's creating an epic, but the only epic part of the film is its epic boredom.

The mix of acting styles is also distracting. The young, 'hip' Broderick, though the only source of the film's much needed humor, is drastically out of place in medieval France. The staid, studied Hauer and classically beautiful and demure Pfeiffer fit better into Donner's humorless vision of the past. Their postured performances capture the serious, pretentious look Donner is striving for.

It's this pretentiousness that kills the picture. What could have been a fun medieval adventure romance drags on and on as Donner hammers his heavy-handed direction into the screen. At least 30 minutes too long, he breaks the cardinal sin of turning the climactic battle into a dull series of antiseptic skirmishes crammed full of unneeded reaction shots. It takes forever for Etienne to finally get to his real opponent, and by that time the audience is either too tired or too bored to sit through yet another showdown.

By Sean Axmaker



(r) Etienne Navare (Rutger Hauer), a brave knight accompanied by his ever present hawk, and Phillipe Gaston (Matthew Broderick), a young pickpocket, star in "Ladyhawke", an epic set in medieval France.

et al.

MEETINGS

PSYCHOLOGY CLUB is looking for enthusiastic students from all majors to attend our next meeting today at 4:30 p.m. in Room 143 Straub Hall. Come find out what we're all about.

LESBIAN DISCUSSION GROUP will meet tonight at 8 in Century Room A EMU.

IFC MEETING today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 108 EMU. Agenda will include:

AISEC, YWCA, and NASU.

LECTURES

LUNCHBAGGER SEMINAR: Dr. Dave Harris will speak on "Pre-eruption emissions of carbon dioxide during magma ascent at Mt. St. Helens" today at 12:30 p.m. in Room 307 Volcanology.

CRAIG MORITZ from Australian National University and University of

Michigan will speak on "Population Biology of Parthenogenetic Australian Lizards" today at 5 p.m. in Room 317 Science III.

MISCELLANEOUS

PRE-LAW ASSOCIATION "WORKSHOP" LSAT, applying to law

school, references, etc. Today at 4 p.m. in Room 164 Oregon Hall.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et Als are run only once, depending upon space availability. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date, and campus-originated events will be given priority.

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