
By Rick Levin

Increasingly edged out of performing stunts, Booth spends most of his time driving Dalton to, fro and around Hollywood, all the while trying to prop up his friend and employer's disintegrating ego. DiCaprio and Pitt are a total joy to watch; both actors — weathered, wry and hangdogish, on the cinematic cusp of crossing over from beautiful and sexy into handsome and distinguished — capture the casual insouciance and tele-

Tarantino has upped his game with this one, and in the process revealed the mature sensibility of a filmmaker capable of looking backward without simply cannibalizing his own achievements and becoming a self-parody. *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood* is an evolution of his craft, an inventive new phase that recalls the reflective sorrows and joys of late-career Fellini. And, despite the subject matter — and even, in an odd way, because of it — the takeaway from this latest film is that life, indeed, is sweet... if only in the movies. ■



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