

RINGWALD LEAVES HUGHES BEHIND IN LATEST FILM

A review by Robert Bodrog

In her first feature since she appeared in director John Hughes' teen trilogy, "Sixteen Candles", "The Breakfast Club", and "Pretty in Pink", Molly Ringwald is back, looking more grown up than ever in writer/director James Toback's newly released film, entitled "The Pick Up Artist".

Although the title character does not apply to Ringwald, but rather her co-star Rob Downey, Molly still receives top billing in the credits. Actually, contrary to what the title implies, the film has very little to do with the art of the pick-up, nor promiscuity in contemporary America but rather the problems encoun-

tered when Downey's character Jack, a 21-year-old elementary school teacher OBSESSED with meeting women on the street, links up with an aesthetic vision of a redhead named Randi, whose father just so happens to owe some gangsters \$25,418 in accrued gambling debts.

The plot takes off (or does it glide?) from there, as our protagonist-hero-romantic Jack becomes entangled with Randi's crisis to pay off Dad's debt so she doesn't have to sleep with "the second richest man in the nation of Columbia". Are you with me up to this point?

In general though, the film works well, and does provide some fine cinematography, in addition to some well chosen location shoots in and around New York City. There are also some very witty moments along the way, including an encounter in a dark alley with a mugger, NO! it's an ELVIS impersonator, a la "Blue Suede Shoes".

And if the initial grosses from its first week in release are any indication, "The Pick Up Artist" should put it well into the black and continue to propell Ringwald, making her one of the hottest young properties in Hollywood.



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