

'Kids' flirt through breezy comedy

I Could Never Have Sex With Any Man Who Has So Little Regard For My Husband is a simple, informal movie, as light-hearted as the foot-tapping banjo music that forms its musical theme. Like *Jeremy*, whatever success it has as a film is because of the breezy, happy-go-lucky touches of its director, newcomer Robert McCarty.

I Could Never is about Marvin & Laura & Stanley & Mandy, two married couples who rent a summer cottage together at Martha's Vineyard. But their attention span is soon narrowed from swimming, sunbathing and antiquing to an obsession with the thought of cheating on each other.

I Could Never is far from a sophisticated sex comedy. Rather, our heroes are like four kids sneaking into the cookie jar. Their flirting and kidding reaches its peak in a rainy day game of strip hide and go seek.

Most of the comedy in the film is as silly as its title, and the director does a good job of squeezing it out of humorist Dan Greenburg's script. The plot, however, is as predictable as the formula it follows, when the fun of bed-hopping turns sour.

greg lukow
key grip

All the players are adequate, but it is Andrew Duncan as Stanley, who appears to have the least acting ability, that comes off as the funniest. He is a research technician who talks in profound philosophies like "Isn't sunbathing like life?" He tells how he knew a former lab assistant had a crush on him because she always "brushed against my beakers."

In the end, though, the kids don't quite make it to the cookie jar. But they didn't really get their hands slapped; it was more like finding Fig Newtons when you were looking for Oreos. We know they will probably return when the pickings are better.

As a postscript, I thought *I Could Never*, might hold the record for the longest movie title. Not so. A bit of research shows it to be at least second behind *The Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Mixed-up Zombies*, a 1962 cheapie starring the incomparable Cash Flagg (honest).

For those of you who have been reluctant to buy a subscription ticket to the new American Film Theater series, the Cooper Plaza will be showing sequences from all the films today at 12:30 p.m.

The film will show individual clips lasting about 10 minutes each and should give some feel for the series. The showing will be held in the Plaza 3 Theater and is open to the public.



Lynne Lipton, Andrew Duncan, Carmine Caridi and Cynthia Harris as Mandy, Stanley, Marvin and Laura in *I Could Never...*

Modern Times (1936) is featured this week in The Charlie Chaplin Film Series at Sheldon. This story of the effects of mass production and the assembly line on the common worker of the 30s is perhaps the most popular of the Chaplin features.

Also starring Paulette Goddard and Chester Conklin, *Modern Times* is the last film in which Chaplin's tramp character appeared and the first in which we hear his voice.

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