

Un-Fonzie-like Winkler credited with saving sophomoric vehicles

Henry Winkler, better known as Fonzie on television's *Happy Days*, makes his movie debut in *Heroes*. It is no coincidence that Winkler's co-star, Sally Field, also is a veteran of a popular television comedy, *The Flying Nun*.

This team undoubtedly was assembled to lure the legions of TV addicts to the box office and it apparently is succeeding. The surprising thing is that *Heroes* is not an entirely disagreeable movie. All the credit for this should go to Winkler.

Winkler plays Jack Dunne, a Vietnam veteran who has been committed to an institution for being shellshocked or something. He manages to escape and—this is a bit confusing—goes on a bus trip using other inmates' money to join with the other members of his old unit to start an earthworm farm!

private showings

On the trip he meets Carol Bell (Field) who also is escaping, but not from her past. She is getting away from her impending wedding. Anyway, they end up going through all sorts of adventures and grow more intimate all the time.

Throughout, director Jeremy Paul Kagan and writer James Carabaras seem determined to avoid the Fonzie image.

Fonzie surface

At only one point does the Fonz character really surface. That is after Winkler is mugged by some rednecks for the wad of money he is carrying. Fonzie returns to their hangout, the bar, and in an entirely unlikely confrontation beats up everyone in the bar.

Otherwise we're force-fed lots of "sensitive" and "expressive" Winkler close-ups. Kagan seems to think that the longer and closer the take, the more it reveals. Winkler, though, comes off well in his first film.

He is the only part of the movie that delivers what it promises. Certainly the characters don't really "find themselves," as the ads proclaim, in this sophomoric attempt at the psychological effects of war. But the audience (which was about 80 percent female when I saw it—make of that what you wish) leaves satisfied because, I suspect, no one really expected much more than a romantic diversion with their old friend, Henry Winkler.

Heroes is playing at the Douglas 1.

Another film that people seem to know what to expect in is *Kentucky Fried Movie*, now playing at the State.

The advance word is that it's like *The Groove Tube*—

better or worse depending on who's telling you. Well, I can't say which, because it's so uneven in quality, but at its best *KFM* is quite funny and original.

Humor common

Anything-goes humor is common these days, and you can expect plenty of sex and "offensive" stuff here. That never bothers me when it's really funny, but about one third of *KFM* is dreadfully boring and often insulting.

Luckily these parts occur in the early skits and black-outs in this collection of TV and movie parodies.

All of the material was written by the Kentucky Fried Theatre (Jerry Zucker, James Abrahams, and David Zucker). This common authorship is evident in the similar feel to all of the skits.

A number of big names appear: Bill Bixby advertising for a headache tablet; Donald Sutherland in a disaster movie take-off, *That's Armageddon!*; Henry Gibson in an appeal for the dead ("death is our nation's number one killer").

The film's finest works are the longer, sustained parodies rather than the shorter takeoffs that rely heavily on shock humor.

Two of the best are *A Fistful of Yen*, a marvelously detailed parody of the martial arts flicks, and *Courtroom*, an off-the-wall send-up of fifties television courtroom dramas.

Perhaps the most important aspect of *KFM* is the potential it shows for its very talented creators. A little control and a feature-length subject might just lead to something important—and funny too!

Movie schedule

Cinema 1: *Oh, God!*; 7:30 9:30 p.m.; PG
 Cinema 2: *Darby O'Gill and the Little People*; 7:15, 9 p.m.; G
 Cinema X: *Mondo and Winnabango*; continuous showings; X
 Cooper/Lincoln; *Fantasia*; 8 p.m.; G
 Douglas 1: *Heroes*; 7:35, 9:40 p.m.; PG
 Douglas 2: *Damnation Alley*; 7:20, 9:30 p.m.; PG
 Douglas 3: *First Love*; 7:30, 9:30 p.m.; PG
 Embassy: *Hard Soap Hard Soap*; and *Confessions of a Teenage Peanut Butter Freak*; continuous showing from 11 a.m.; X
 Joyo; *Ma and Pa Kettle* and *Kettles in the Ozarks*; 7:20 p.m.; G
 Plaza 1: *Bobby Deerfield*; 7, 9:15 p.m.; PG
 Plaza 2: *Bobby Deerfield*; 7:30, 9:45 p.m.; PG
 Plaza 3: *A Piece of the Action*; 7:15, 9:45 p.m.; PG
 Plaza 4: *Smokey and the Bandit*; 7:30, 9:30 p.m.; PG
 State: *Kentucky Fried Movie*; 7, 8:35, 10:10 p.m.; R
 Stuart: *Star Wars*; 7:20, 9:30 p.m.; PG

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