

Rock star's acting, body hard to ignore

By Stephanie Zink

Adequate is the best word to describe

Film Review

cribe *Hard to Hold*, the latest in a long line of rock-oriented movies to be released in the last year.

Surprisingly, the best thing about this movie is Rick Springfield's acting, which overshadows co-stars Janet Elber and Patti Hanson's paltry talents

by a long shot. Springfield plays Jamie Roberts, a rock star who is constantly being chased by adoring female fans. It is while he is getting away from these fans that he runs into Diana Lawson's car (Janet Elber). Thus begins his obsession with Diana, who works with disturbed children and has no need for rock music and, especially, a "rock person of some sort."

She finally falls for Jamie, but his jealous co-songwriter Nicky (Hanson) doesn't like seeing the couple together so she makes it hard on them by constantly throwing fits and sending a mob of teenagers after the couple

through the streets of San Francisco. Although Diana is in love with Jamie, she is reluctant throughout the movie to admit it or be serious about their relationship.

The story line is cliched and meaningless, which is typical for screenwriter Tom Hedley, who also wrote *Flashdance*. But unlike *Flashdance*, *Hard to Hold* doesn't appeal to anyone's emotions and the actors don't hold the movie together.

Another downfall of this movie is that for half of it Springfield is running around in his shorts — perfect for the teen beat set. But *Hard to Hold* also portrays what the life of a rock star

can be like. Springfield has obviously taken from his own experience in the rock world and uses it to create a semi-realistic view of the disadvantages of being in the public eye.

The soundtrack sounds like the rest of the songs in Springfield's career — commercial pop. It does absolutely nothing for the movie, although it does seem like the film was written around the music. This ultimately weakens *Hard to Hold*.

Although Rick Springfield does a wonderful acting job, there are too many things wrong with this movie for it, say, to be nominated for an Oscar. But it is slightly humorous and provides a few enjoyable moments.

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