

# Producers goofed by conceiving 'First Born'

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Just when movies were starting to get good again, Teri Garr's movie "First Born" hit the theat-

## Movie Review

ers. It starts slow, and never quite gets on track. This movie has many problems, one of them fatal. Maybe it is just me, but I have

an image of Teri Garr in light-hearted, sometimes silly movies such as "Mr. Mom" and "Tootsie." In this movie she plays the mother of a very bright teen-ager (Peter Weller). The villain is introduced and the conflict begins. The son does not like his mom's new boyfriend, for good reason. Her boyfriend has used violent tactics to keep him out of the way. But the mother doesn't realize this, and keeps her relationship with the man going. Does this sound like Teri Garr's type of movie? She made a mistake when she decided to be in this picture. Her career

will always be remembered as the straight character in comedies.

For a PG-13 movie, "First Born" is violent. The scenes are not graphic, but some of the intensity may be too much for the average movie goer. Maybe the producers could put a little more graphic detail in the movie and release it as an R-rated picture. Maybe the graphic detail would bring more excitement to the movie.

The movie's pace is so slow that when the action scenes come, they are forgotten because it just seems to drag. The movie isn't too long, and there is enough plot to

put much into the overall pace. But it wasn't done, and the movie suffers severely for it.

Technically, the movie is made fairly well. It tries to show an average household, and passes with flying colors. It's easy to picture this sort of environment. This was a predictable movie, where you expected right from the beginning what would eventually happen. There is no spontaneity to it.

Garr tries to make a horrible part into at least a bearable part. She needs to go back to the comedies, but she has the ability

to play the average mother, whatever that is. But her good performance is not enough to save this movie. Weller does an average job as the mistreated teen-ager. The part could have been played by anyone.

"First Born" has some problems. If the producers used a little more action, possibly made it an R-rated movie, replaced Teri Garr with someone who has a few more problems, such as a Joan Crawford-type mother, maybe this movie would succeed. Or could it be that "First Born" should never have been conceived.

## 'World's only 60-second novelist' finds success peddling stories

**The Reuter News Report**  
NEW YORK — It took 27-year-old Dan Hurley just a week to make it as a writer in New York City, center of the U.S. publishing industry and home of many successful authors and even more hungry ones.

Not that the likes of Norman Mailer or Joseph Heller are likely to be worried by the competition. Hurley isn't into novels or screenplays, he bills himself as "The World's only 60-second Novelist."

On the streets of Manhattan among the usual pimps, pushers and pedlars Hurley sits on a director-style folding chair with a typewriter on his lap and for \$5 writes an original, imaginative one-page story after asking the subject a few probing questions.

Since he gave up a job as a journalist and moved to New York from Chicago in June, business has been good. He makes up to \$50 an hour.

The thin, energetic, somewhat eccentric entrepreneur has also had inevitable brushes with the seamier denizens of the streets.

He has been slapped in the face "by a woman not totally

on the planet," had his pocket picked, been sprayed with beer and had a man, seemingly under the influence of chemical substances, stand by him for an hour insisting that Hurley glow.

His customers have ranged from prostitutes of both sexes to a cop and the Mayor of Chicago.

Hurley who once worked as an editor-at-large for the American Bar Association, said, "I was a good journalist but there are a lot of good journalists. There is only one 60-second novelist."

"I am a very imaginative person. I love to write."

On a recent evening on Manhattan's upper west side their was considerable interest from the restaurant and theater crowd in Hurley who wore a bow tie and straw hat, having used a shopping cart to carry his typewriter and "60-Second Novelist" sign from the subway.

Hurley who can actually take up to five minutes to complete a "novel", has had customers thank him for his "therapeutic" questions while others are just plain flattered by the attention. As the 60-second

novelist puts it: "Wow, do people like to be written about."

Few other writers have been among Hurley's customers. He explains, "I suspect it is because most of them are too poor."

With winter approaching Hurley is seeking indoor work, writing his "Novels" in stores and at private parties, conventions and trade shows.

One of his best-received works was for a Russian-born woman, who was reduced to tears, and her American husband.

It read, in part: "Vincent was building a construction project in Russia. Just another American working hard at building buildings. Then he saw the most beautiful construction job he had ever seen in any country. Her name was Maria. She had blond hair, brown eyes and a lovely figure, and she spoke with the most enchanting accent."

Hurley, who studied English composition and philosophy at Beloit College in Wisconsin, said of his business, "I am a person of many silly ideas, but this is the craziest thing I ever thought of."



Photo Courtesy of A&M Records  
These four strange-looking gentlemen are the Hoodoo Gurus, an Australian band whose music has been called a "mixture of rockabilly, Merseybeat, psychedelia, glitter rock, punk and straight-out catchy pop." The Gurus are scheduled to play the Drumstick tonight. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

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