'Just One of the Guys' fights equality from kids' viewpoint

By Julie Liska Staff Reporter

The fight for equality is no longer limited to those women in the working world, but now has included kids who haven't even graduated from high school. Don't believe it?

"Just One of the Guys" features Joyce Hyser as Terry, a beautiful and gifted journalist in high school. Terry is cheated out of her chance at a major newspaper job because of her sex. In order to get the position, she retaliates by dressing like a boy and going to a different school where she enters the same contest there.



If the plot rings a distant bell in the old memory - it should. "Guys" plot parrots the award-winning "Tootsie," which starred Dustin Hoffman a few years ago. Whereas Tootsie dealt with a mature man who dressed as a woman for better acting parts, "Guys" focuses on a young woman who sets out to prove she can make it in a man's world.

When all is said and done, "Guys" amounts to the equivalent of a more mature Porky's movie. "Guys" is a lot more sensitive to the thoughts and feelings of all the characters included in the production. However, the action is often so burlesque and overinflated, it seems as though the writers are beating the audience members over the head to get them the "message."

For example, Billy Jacoby portrays Terry's brother Rick, who is presumably a "normal" male. He constantly talks about women, women's bodies and sex, Terry's boyfriend, Kevin (Leigh McCloskey), is more concerned with her looks than her ability. In fact, all the men in the production seem to share the view that women are inferior except for Rick (Clayton Rohner), whom Terry falls madly in love with. I expected someone to come out with a sign reading "THESE ARE MALE CHAUVINISTS.



"Guys" also has the dreaded downfall of predictability. It's another one of those melodramas where the good guy triumphs, and you know he'll triumph. There's just no other way for it to be.

On the positive side, "Guys" can be commended for personifying the delicate situation of a woman in a man's world, as seen through the eyes of the young. By the end of the film, all of the characters have grown and are well on their way to becoming a little more open-minded in today's stereotypical society.

"Guys" is rated PG-13, and can be best enjoyed by that age group. The set, actors, subject and humor of the film are all directed to the teenage audience, and although it can certainly hold the attention of older audience members, it is best left for the adolescent minds for which it is intended.

"Just One of the Guys" is playing at the East Park 3, 66th and 0 streets.

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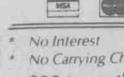
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