

Movies



Rourke and Basinger.

Courtesy of MGM/UA

Sordid, yuppie film 9½ Weeks, another erotic obsession movie

By Chris McCubbin
Staff Reporter

Nothing new here, just another one of those steamy erotic obsession movies, but "9½ Weeks" is less of an updated "Last Tango In Paris" and more of a soft-core porn version of "Flashdance."

Movie Review

This movie comes from Adrian Lyne, "Flashdance's" director. It shares the earlier film's impeccable sense of style and crystal clear production. "9½ Weeks" also shares "Flashdance's" complete superficiality and predictability, without any of its charm or innocence.

The stars, Kim Basinger ("The Natural," "Never Say Never Again") and Mickey Rourke ("Rumble Fish," "Body Heat," "Diner") are the best things about this film. They look great together, and occasionally they even manage to generate some erotic heat on screen, but the screenplay never backs up their visual charisma.

The plot, as if it matters, is this. Elizabeth, a divorced art dealer, meets and is seduced by John, a very rich, rather kinky commodities broker with a great smile and an air of mystery. Over the course of "9½ weeks" they have sex in various improbable positions and localities until Elizabeth gets fed up and takes off after John tries to make her watch him get it on with a prostitute. A very sordid little film, despite its elegant up-town New York trappings.

Also a very yuppie film. Commodities brokers are just the sexiest thing in the world. "I love Wall Street," Elizabeth says, "All those gray flannel suits... shiny shoes..."

This is another one of those obnoxious '80s films where blatant, vicious

sexism is covered over by a thin veneer of pseudo-feminism. Basically John dominates Elizabeth and systematically turns her into an object. And she loves it. When she leaves at the end it's supposed to show that she's a stronger, more independent person, but the gesture rings hollow.

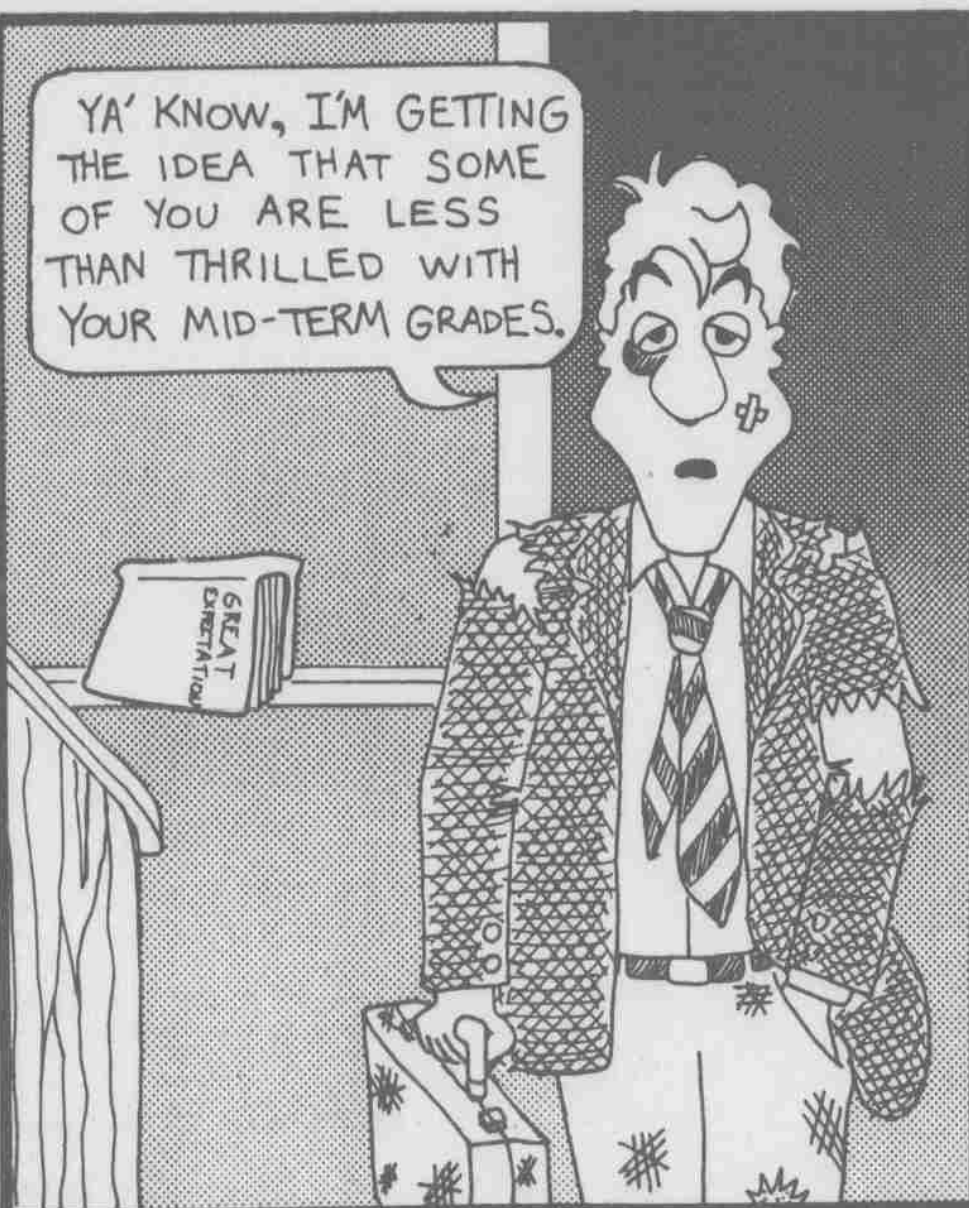
"9½ Weeks" also makes extensive use of an annoying cliché I had hoped was long gone. In the sex scenes, Elizabeth seems to be the only one who

ever takes off her clothes.

As art, this film is a complete waste of time, but it is good for an occasional cheap thrill. You wouldn't want to see it with someone you love, but you might take somebody you want to sleep with — once.

It's rated 'R,' of course. "9½ Weeks" is currently showing at the Cinema 1&2, 13th and P.

Prof. Pudwitz by Ron Jelinek



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