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Arts & Entertainment

'Solarbabies' inoffensive

Adventure movie done for its own sake, not a gimmick rip-off

By Chris McCubbin Senior Reporter

"Solarbabies"

It's kind of sad that we live in a culture where popular arts are in such a sad state that our only standard of quality is the absence of shoddiness or offensiveness. "Solarbabies" is a wellwritten, well-produced, well-acted little movie with absolutely nothing whatsoever remarkable about it. It's one of the best films I've seen this year. This says less about "Solarbabies" than it does about this year's films.

But it's not the movie's fault that it comes off so much better than it

Movie Review

deserves. "Solarbabies" was intended to be an entertaining, inoffensive adventure film, and at that it succeeds.

The story is familiar to sciencefiction fans without being derivative of any single trendy hit. In the near future the earth is ruled by a totalitarian government that controls the water supplies and daily rations enough water out to meet the most basic human needs.

Children are raised in state-sponsored orphanages. In one of these orphanages seven teen-agers have formed an unbeatable skateball team called the Solarbabies. Skateball is a futuristic form of hockey played on rollerskates.

The Solarbabies' mascot (Lukas Haas, Harrison Ford's co-star in "Witness") finds a friendly, omnipotent glowing ball named Bodhi, and the Solarbabies run away to take on the system.

The real beauty of Solarbabies is that it's not done to jump on any bandwagon. It's not designed to be popular like "Star Wars" was or like "Rambo"



Solarbabies: futuristic "stars of tomorrow."

babies" basically is. The movie is morals and values are neither ridiculed obviously aimed at a younger teen-age nor shoved down our throats but are audience, and its unrelenting inno- just there in the characters and in the cence will probably cause it to be uni-story. versally pooh-poohed by today's jaded college audience.

"Solarbabies." Movies by filmmakers there are worse things to do for \$4. good, solid stories than in cashing in on at the Cinema Twin.

toon, that's because that's what "Solar- somebody else's gimmick. Movies where

If you go with an open mind, and if you're not offended by innocence, you'll But I think we need more movies like probably enjoy "Solarbabies." God knows who are more interested in presenting "Solarbabies" is now showing

State of the Arts

Compiled by Stew Magnuson

Staff Reporter

Music:

Tonight at The Drumstick, Walk Cover will be \$2. The West, a Los Angeles-based country-rock band, might just make Tes, once again, it's time for the up for this week's Jason and The N.T.P. Rabbit Breeders Association-Scorthers cancellation. Cover is \$5, meeting tonight at the Anderson and the opening band is the ever Library Fremont Street and Toupopular Verandas.

At the Zoo, Special Concensus say there's nothing to do in Lincoln. Blue grass will play one night. Those On TV: who like blue grass tell me they're The holtest comedian in the

toprotch. Cover will be \$3.50

with Lincoln's Jazz Underground. Cover is free.

Tonight and through the weekend, Omaha's excellent soul-funk outfit E.T.C. plays at Little Bo's.

More Rabbit Breeders:

* zalin Avenue, at 7 p.m. And people

western world, Jay Leno, hosts the A. Anthony Blues, the longtime . "Tonight Show" on channel 6 at Thu sday-night jazz fam takes place 10:30 p.m.

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was or like "Mad Max" was. It's a good adventure film done for its own sake.

According to the "Solarbabies" press material, screenwriter Douglas Anthony Metrov originally introduced "Solarbabies" as a 21/2-hour multi-media presentation complete with live actors. This film started out as a labor of love. That's obvious, and it helps.

"Solarbabies" only major fault is the many loose ends left at the end of the picture. This is obviously a set-up for a sequel, but I don't consider that an excuse.

The young cast will be familiar to most TV viewerse Almost all of them seem to have made guest shots on "The Facts Of Life." Besides Haas, the most important role is Terra, played by Jami Gertz, who was featured in last summer's sadly neglected "Crossroads."

Expect to see a lot more of Adrian Pasdar, who plays Darstar. A young man of astonishing handsomeness, Pasdar is a good bet for the next big teen idol.

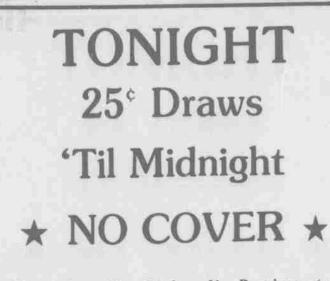
If its promos made "Solarbabies" look like a live-action Saturday-morning carThe Centrum East Park Plaza

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