

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 well-written, 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



Courtesy of MGM

Movie Review

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

The story is familiar to science-fiction 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" 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 2 1/2-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 viewers. 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 car-

Solarbabies: futuristic "stars of tomorrow."

toon, that's because that's what "Solarbabies" basically is. The movie is obviously aimed at a younger teen-age audience, and its unrelenting innocence will probably cause it to be universally poo-hooped by today's jaded college audience.

But I think we need more movies like "Solarbabies." Movies by filmmakers who are more interested in presenting good, solid stories than in cashing in on

somebody else's gimmick. Movies where morals and values are neither ridiculed nor shoved down our throats but are just there in the characters and in the story.

If you go with an open mind, and if you're not offended by innocence, you'll probably enjoy "Solarbabies." God knows there are worse things to do for \$4. "Solarbabies" is now showing at the Cinema Twin.

State of the Arts

Compiled by
Stew Magnuson
Staff Reporter

Music:
Tonight at The Drumstick, Walk The West, a Los Angeles-based country-rock band, might just make up for this week's Jason and The Scorchers cancellation. Cover is \$5, and the opening band is the ever-popular Verandas.

At the Zoo, Special Concensus Bluegrass will play one night. Those who like bluegrass tell me they're topnotch. Cover will be \$3.50.

A. Anthony Blues, the longtime Thursday-night jazz jam takes place

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. Cover will be \$2.

More Rabbit Breeders:
Yes, once again, it's time for the N.T.P. Rabbit Breeders Association meeting tonight at the Anderson Library, Fremont Street and Touzalin Avenue, at 7 p.m. And people say there's nothing to do in Lincoln.

On TV:
The hottest comedian in the western world, Jay Leno, hosts the "Tonight Show" on channel 6 at 10:30 p.m.

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