



Fantasy and reality converge in "Cool World," where seductress Hollie Would invites cartoonist Jack Deebs (Gabriel Byrne) into his wildest dreams.

## 'Cool World' makes summer sizzle

"Cool World"



By Gerry Beltz  
Staff Reporter

The acting for "Cool World" (Plaza 4, 12th and P streets) may not be top notch, but the set design and combination of animation with live action is well worth the money.

Cool World is a two-dimensional universe inhabited by cartoons (or "doodles"). Enlarged photographs are the basis for the animation, giving the Cool World a very dreamlike and surrealistic atmosphere.

The main character is Frank Harris (Brad Pitt from "Thelma and Louise"), who ends up escaping to the Cool World following the death of his mother in the mid-1940s.

In Cool World, he becomes the classic hard-as-nails gumshoe detective, who also happens to be carrying on a close-to-romantic relationship with a doodle.

### movie REVIEW

This, however, would be a violation of Cool World's most ancient rule: Doodles do not have sex with Noids (three-dimensional beings).

Unfortunately, despite Harris' best efforts, the seductive doodle Hollie Would (Kim Basinger) seduces cartoonist Jack Deebs (Gabriel Byrne from "Miller's Crossing"), who thinks he created this world. This in turn threatens the existence of both universes, but Hollie doesn't care; she just wants to be real.

The animation is excellent, as all of Bakshi's previous works have been.

One minute Cool World is full of laughs and snickers, and the next it is almost monstrously horrific, with an ordinary fountain pen becoming a feared weapon of destruction.

Basinger plays what could be called a "cold-hearted bimbo," complete with stereotypical high-pitched voice and giggles. A great deal of her performance involved only her voice, and her "physical appearances" are fairly infrequent.

Byrne's performance is hardly worth mentioning; the doodles had more depth than his character did.

Pitt, however, was great. He took the trauma from his mother's death and turned it into a single-minded focus on keeping his paws off Lonette, a female doodle who is attracted to him.

He then stays in Cool World rather than having to deal with the harsh realities of the real world.

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