

PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

TADZU LEMPKE (Michael Constantine, left) places a gypsy curse on Billy Halleck (Robert John Burke) in "Stephen King's Thinner."

# 'Thinner' doesn't do King justice

By CLIFF HICKS Film Critic

There's a theory about films based on the work of Stephen King - if they've got his name in front of them, and it fails to capture the imagination don't go see them.

"Thinner" is just another example in the long line of films that can't do Halleck, played by Robert John Burke. Stephen King justice. Look at "Stephen Halleck is a lawyer in a small town King's Sleepwalkers" or "Stephen system, where things are fairly corrupt. King's The Lawnmower Man."

If the filmmakers are stooping to at the beginning of the film. using King's name to get you to see the film (and sometimes it's just on when Halleck runs over a gypsy posters, TV spots, etc.), you shouldn't woman because his wife is giving him be handing them your money.

King is a genius storyteller, but part of the problem is adapting his horror any wrongdoing," the oldest gypsy King is a genius storyteller, but part to film. The most successful and effec- from the family, Tadzu Lempke, curses tive movies based on his work have not been from horror stories.

Prime examples of this include "Stand By Me" (which is based off the story "The Body" from "Different Seasons"), "The Running Man" (which King wrote under the name Richard Bachman), "Misery" (off the book of the same name) and the film that should have won Morgan Freeman an Oscar, "The Shawshank Redemption" (which is based off "Rita Hayworth & The Shawshank Redemption" also from be, flesh out the images in your head. "Different Seasons").

with the exception of "The Running Man," which is just a fun film. They changed the ending of "The Running Man" anyway.

The problem is that "Thinner" has King's name in front, it is a horror film of the viewer.

"Thinner" is the story of Billy Halleck is also just under 300 pounds

The whole ball of wax gets rolling oral sex while he is driving.

Halleck with a brush of his hand across the cheek and single word — "thinner."

As it turns out, both the judge and the officer who testified that Halleck was not at fault are cursed with different curses as well.

Here we return to the problem this is a horror film. One of the reasons Stephen King is so successful as a horror writer (and why horror fiction is effective in general) is because the words allow you to, as the case may

King provides an outline, the de-All of those films apply an adept scriptions, the characters and the story, \$1.50 theater to make fun of. Sorry,

#### The Facts

Film: "Stephen King's Thinner" Stars: Robert John Burke, Joe Mantegna, Michael Constantine Director: Tom Holland Rating: R (violence, language)

Grade: C Five Words: "Thinner" can't capture King's essence

to the readers. No two people read a horror story alike, which is why it

"Thinner" is ineffective because the viewer is forced to accept special effects that aren't at all how they may have envisioned the story.

Instead of gaunt beyond belief, images of Halleck fail to capture the essence of King's horrific ideas, and perhaps display why a film may never capture the essence of a horror book.

Besides all this, the acting isn't all that terrific and the dialogue seems flat and predictable. Even the ending just doesn't succeed in being horror.

The funny thing about the film is that it wanders so far into campiness, one might think it was intentional. Unfortunately (for the film's sake), it probably wasn't.

This is the kind of film to go to at a skill of capturing character and story, and leaves the little creepy details up trick-or-treaters — no goodies here.

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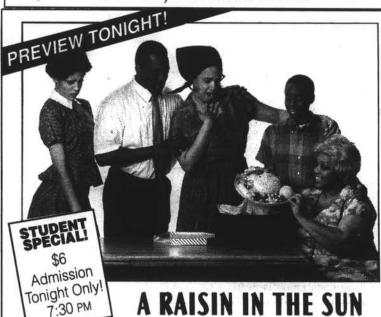
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OPEN AUDITION CALL: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. CALL BACK AUDITION: 6:00 P.M.

General Information

ALL PERSONS AUDITIONING SHOULD PROVIDE A HEAD SHOT & RESUME.

Dancers: Prepare a one minute dance combination. You may be asked to sing.

Singers: Prepare four selections that display versatility. Provide sheet music in your key or track tape without vocals! Singers may be asked to dance. Accompanist

key or track tape without vocals: Singers may be asked to dance. Accompanies provided.

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# First-edition Shakespeare brings \$250,00

NEW YORK (AP) - A firstedition volume of William Shakespeare's plays with gilt edges and marbled leaves sold for \$250,000 at Sotheby's, the auction house said.

The 1623 Shakespeare folio, sold Tuesday, was described by Sotheby's as "incomparably the most important work in the English language.

The folio was "Mr. William Shakespeare Comedies, Histories,

& Tragedies. Published according to the True Originall Copies, printed in London in 1623. The volume presents the first editions of 18 of Shakespeare's plays and rare authoritative text of several others.

Its pre-sale estimated value was between \$80,000 and \$120,000. Sotheby's said.

Another high-priced item, selling for \$126,500, was the first portrait of Abraham Lincoln with a full beard. The portrait's presale estimated value was between \$30,000

The photograph was taken in dent-elect left Springfield, Ill., for the journey to Washington, Sotheby's said. The photo was signed by Lincoln along with the words "president-elect."

Sotheby's did not reveal the names of any of the sellers or the

Please see BOOK on 14



