

3 actors and a director

Writer/director James Toback is resting at the Four Seasons after battling with the MPAA to keep his new movie TWO GIRLS AND A GUY from the dreaded NC-17 rating. Oscar-nominated for BUGSY, Toback isn't really pushing the envelope with his story of a two-timer (Robert Downey, Jr.) confronted by two angry women (Heather Graham and Natasha Gregson Wagner). But apparently the film's dead-on verisimilitude combined with intimations of oral sex is too uncomfortably REAL for them.

MG: You've made a number of films, such as the documentary THE BIG BANG and FINGERS with Harvey Keitel. But everyone assumes that your two movies about compulsive womanizers--THE PICK-UP ARTIST (which starred Downey, Jr.) and TWO GIRLS AND A GUY-- are autobiographical.

JT: I know! I was at the Telluride Film Festival with my wife and her sister. In the question period after the screening, someone said "Is this autobiographical?" And I said "No." And she said "Well, how

come you're walking around Telluride with two girls?" And I said because one of them is my wife and the other is her sister. And everyone cracked up thinking I was kidding!

MG: Maybe it's because you used Robert Downey, Jr. again.

JT: I was compelled to use him again, because I felt in THE PICK-UP ARTIST I didn't use him as I could have. I didn't see the level of interesting twistedness in him then that I have since. And once he got into the trouble he got into, I thought it would be an ideal time from him to show his complexity. This was really written for him.

MG: Heather Graham (Roller Girl in BOOGIE NIGHTS) is also really good.

JT: I think as the weeks go on, she's going to become tremendously in demand. There's very little going on in terms of romantic female leads.

MG: But if anyone asks, since you're married, I assume I can say that you two are NOT dating.

JT: (laughs) That's right. Besides, I think she even has a boyfriend.

MICHAEL GILTZ