

reel reviews

★★★Just Between Friends

Holly is a full-time housewife and a part-time fitness freak who is married to Chip, a full-time seismologist and a part-time husband. I say part-time because, though Chip loves Holly, he has a wandering eye.

When a tremor hits California, Chip is interviewed for the local news. He is immediately attracted to the interviewer, Sandy, who responds to his advances. She's a full-time newscaster and a part-time aerobics exerciser who becomes fast friends with another member of her gym who (surprise) turns out to be Holly.

No one is aware of these interconnections until Holly invites Sandy over for dinner. Also at the

dinner is Harry, a part-time liar (he pretends to play tennis with Chip when Chip is really meeting Sandy) and full-time secret admirer of Holly, whom he obviously loves.

If all of this sounds like a soap opera, it should. Actually, it's from a feature film called *Just Between Friends*, which tries to be like *Terms of Endearment* but comes closer to *General Hospital*.

Mary Tyler Moore has the central role of Holly. She was terrific in *Ordinary People*, but here Moore doesn't seem up to the task. She tends to exaggerate, both emotionally and physically. However, when she isn't trying to "act," Moore can be quite effec-

tive.

Sam Waterson has much less to do as Harry (he nods a lot), and Ted Danson is forgettable, if compe- tent, as Chip. The truly stand- out performance is delivered by Christine Lahti. She plays the tough-talking and ambitious San- dy, and her acting occasionally overcomes the too-coincidental script.

Despite some major reserva- tions, there are enough honest and touching moments to make *Just Between Friends* worth a look. Besides, it is clearly an attempt by the studios to make a quality film, and we should give them all the encouragement we can.

by Michael Giltz

★ Police Academy III

Royal Park

If you thought *Police Academy I and II* were hilarious comedies, right up there with the *Porky's* saga, you won't be disappointed

by *Police Academy III*. On the other hand, if you thought *Police Academy I and II* were lowbrow, offensively stupid flicks that made ridiculous amounts of money, you certainly won't be disappoint- ed either.

Rad

-Oaks East Six

Hot on the heels of *Quicksilver* comes *Rad*, another "bicycle drama" and another dud. One can only hope that this sub-genre of teen-oriented flicks will die a quick and very painful death.

by Michael Giltz