

## Charm gives 'The Mexican' potential

Katie Beaver

Reporter

In "The Mexican," Julia Roberts and Brad Pitt pair up for the first time on the silver screen to deliver an odd, screwball movie that does not fit comfortably in any movie genre. Star power carries the, which at times is uncertain of its own direction.

Jerry Welbach, played by a loveable goofy Pitt, has a definite problem. The bumbling, hesitant mob member is told to go to Mexico to retrieve a priceless, infamous pistol called "The Mexican." However, his long-suffering fiancé Samantha, played flawlessly by Roberts, tells Jerry he must choose between her and Mexico.

Deciding that an angry fiancé is better than certain death, Jerry ditches Samantha and goes to Mexico. He later discovers that his beloved has been kidnapped to ensure that Jerry returns to the United States with the Mexican.

This poses a problem, considering that Jerry no longer has the pistol in his possession.

While Jerry frantically combs the countryside for the gun in his rented El Camino, Samantha is busy 'making nice' with the mobster who is holding her hostage.

Her captor, played by "The Sopranos" star James Gandolfini, is supposedly a



Courtesy of MovieWeb.com

**"The Mexican:"** Jerry (Brad Pitt) is double-crossed by a car thief (Richard Coca) who is also after the priceless antique pistol known as *The Mexican*

### REVIEW

tough guy with a bad reputation. However, Samantha charms him with her mega-watt smile and the two become fast friends during their time together, sharing relationship woes and other stories.

Though she has read one too many self-help books and gone to one too many group therapy sessions, Sam is an endearing, caring woman who captures the audiences' hearts. She endlessly over-analyzes Jerry and their relationship, but amid all her psycho-babble lays a strong, pure heart that belongs

to her fiancé.

Jerry is quite similar to Samantha, in that he is also loveable and charming. He endures the onslaught of psychiatric terms Samantha throws at him and attempts to make her as happy as possible. Not one to over-analyze, he is the down-to-earth counterpart to Samantha's flightiness.

Adding to the main story is an enjoyable, though perhaps overdone, movie-inside-a-movie about the Mexican. The unique pistol supposedly holds a curse, and black-and-white scenes placed throughout the movie unravel the mystery behind the elusive gun.

Presenting a movie that is half romantic comedy, half action-packed thriller, director Gore Verbinski seems unsure of which direction to take his big-name stars. However, the appeal

## TV Guide Awards

Erin Cunningham

Reporter

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual TV Guide Awards aired on March 7 on FOX from the Shrine Expo Center in Los Angeles. It featured many new categories and honorees that represented a broader range of TV.

The awards show hosted nine new categories and 240 nominees. Musical Special of the Year, Music Series of the Year, Supporting Actor/Actress of the Year in a Comedy Series, Supporting Actor/Actress of the Year in a Drama Series, Personality of the Year, Breakout Star of the Year and Reality Series of the Year are the new awards up for grabs.

The event was hosted by late night talk show host Craig Kilborn, who added his comedic expertise to the evening.

This year the show began the decision process by soliciting the opinions of 115 top executives and producers from broadcast and cable networks, studios and production companies. This expert panel received open nomination forms in early November and helped to tighten competition within each category by holding the first round of nominees to a

dozen.

The Comedy Series of the Year award went to "Everybody Loves Raymond." In addition, the Actor of the Year in a Comedy Series went to Ray Romano, and the Supporting Actress of the Year in a Comedy Series went to Doris Roberts from "Raymond."

"West Wing" was awarded Drama Series of the Year, and Martin Sheen was presented the Actor of the Year in a Drama Series award, for his role as the President.

"Will and Grace" also took home two awards. Debra Messing was graced with the Actress of the Year in a Comedy Series award, and Sean Hayes received the Supporting Actor of the Year in a Comedy Series award.

The Music Series of the Year went to VH1's "Behind the Music," which beat out MTV's "Total Request Live."

The Comedy Special of the Year was awarded to 'Saturday Night Live' for their presidential bash during the 2000 campaign.

Another aspect of the TV Guide awards was the TV Moment of the Year award. This honor went to Jason Sehorn's 'Tonight Show' proposal to Angie Harmon, which beat the Survivor season finale and Jennifer Lopez's daring Golden Globes ensemble.

of the two mega-watt celebrities carries the movie through its chaotic and confusing twists and turns.

Though the two stars do not share many scenes, their time together is well spent and enjoyable. Pitt makes fine use of his charm and good looks, and Roberts' huge smile is always within seconds of breaking the

surface of her character's glum outlook.

Several critics have labeled the movie as a "star vehicle" and tossed it aside. However, there is definite potential amid the chaos of the movie. Though it is not deserving of any high honors, it is an enjoyable blend of romance, comedy and action that both men and women will appreciate.

## Listings

### All Time Best Movies About Movies

As you'll see some of the best movies about movies aren't so much valentines to the business as they are poison-pen letters.

10. "Swimming with Sharks"  
1994

9. "The Stunt Man"  
1980

8. "Hollywood Shuffle"  
1987

7. "The Bad and the Beautiful"  
1952

6. "Living Oblivion"  
1995

5. "A Star is Born"  
1954

4. "Ed Wood"  
1994

3. "8 1/2"  
1963

2. "Sunset Boulevard"  
1950

1. "The Player"  
1992

Courtesy of Eonline.com