

REEL REVIEWS

Once Bitten

Plaza

Occasionally, a bad comedy will have a funny preview that makes you want to see it. However, a good comedy almost never has a bad preview. The preview for *Once Bitten* is not funny. And, just as you would expect, neither is the movie.

This is the story of Mark (Jim Carrey), a high school boy who's eager for sex. When Robin (Karen Kopins), his girlfriend, turns him down for the umpteenth time, he goes to a singles bar and quickly succumbs to the charms of the Countess.

The Countess (Lauren Hutton) turns out to be a vampire. She needs a virgin's blood to keep herself youthful looking. Specifically, she must get three transfusions from Mark before Halloween, or she'll start showing her age (which is about 400 years old).

Recounting the plot should be a simple task, but this time it wasn't. This is not a memorable movie. It's not even memorably bad. Two hours after it was over, about all I could remember was the popcorn.

Where was I? Oh, yeah. The movie, *Once Bitten* started off slow, but then it stopped completely. Mark has two friends who are, of course, obsessed with scoring. So, we continually switch from scenes of Mark turning into a vampire (his skin becomes pale, he starts wearing all-black outfits) to scenes of his friends getting rejected. I never could figure out which half was supposed to be the comedic relief.

I didn't care, either. It's not much fun when the best part of a movie is the "Coming Attractions."

But, (unfortunately) back to the movie. Near the end,



Cleaven Little and Lauren Hutton in the snoozer comedy *Once Bitten*

Mark and Robin are chased around the Countess' mansion by all these vampire extras. They run around hissing and making other appropriate vampire noises. I was embarrassed just watching them. I can't imagine how they must have felt.

Obviously, *Once Bitten* is not a comedy feast for moviegoers. It's not even a light snack. It's junk food that rots your teeth and leaves you feeling slightly queasy.

By Michael Giltz