

reel reviews

★★★Pretty in Pink *Oaks 4 West*

Writer/Producer/Director John Hughes is single-handedly giving teenagers, if not a good name, at least a normal one.

Though the *Porky's* mentality is still more prevalent, we've come to expect intelligent and sensitive portrayals of teenagers. *Pretty In Pink* does not disappoint. While Hughes did not direct this time around, his touch can be felt everywhere—from the excellent casting to the cutting-edge soundtrack.

The story is familiar enough but is treated with such perception that it seems brand-new. Andie (Molly Ringwald) is a hardworking but poor student who goes to a school where all the rich kids hassle her for being poor.

As if that wasn't enough, she's constantly being hounded by a nerd (Jon Cryer) who loves her and doesn't mind telling her so every 30 seconds. Unfortunately for the nerd, Andie has eyes only for a "richie" (Andrew McCarthy) who just happens to love her back.



They try to get out together, but their separate friends and backgrounds keep pulling them apart. All of this is overshadowed by the upcoming prom, and even if the "richie" does ask her to go, his friends might force him back down.

In many respects, *Pretty In Pink* is a step forward for Hughes. The nerd is just as weird as the one in *Sixteen Candles*, but he's a more complex character after being given a chance to change and grow. This movie also contains Hughes' first complete adult character in Andie's dad (Harry Dean Stanton).

Ringwald is one of the most promising actresses working today. She has a relaxed, effective presence and never seems to strike a dishonest note. Like Spencer Tracy, and this comparison is not made lightly, Ringwald makes acting look easy. McCarthy is equally good as her love interest, having the ability to say more with his eyes than most actors can with pages of dialogue. Together, they're good enough to make the prom seem terribly important all over again.

by Michael Giltz