



Simple Men. Despite what you may have heard, Hal Hartley is not an acquired taste—sly intelligence and an off-kilter perspective shouldn't consign anyone this funny to the fringes. Besides, with his penchant for witty dialogue and exceptionally attractive leads, it's only a matter of time before more people discover him. In Hartley's latest and best feature, two brothers (Robert Burke and William Sage) go in search of their father, "the radical shortstop," a baseball star who, 23 years before, had turned revolutionary and gone underground. Burke and Sage meander into the lives of two intriguing women and some memorable minor characters, such as a gas station attendant who plays a mean version of "Greensleeves" and a bitter sheriff who barely questions suspects before launching into a discourse on the vagaries of love. It's all linked together by a terrific screenplay, a very loud score, and the excitement of watching a singular talent continue to improve. New Line Home Video, \$92.86; laserdisc, \$39.99.

MICHAEL GILTZ

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