

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

CITY EDITION

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" II COR. 3:17

NEWSSTAND PRICE 50¢

MOVIE REVIEW

'Nice Guys Sleep Alone' nice all around

Nice Guys Sleep Alone



Cast: Sean O'Bryan, William Sanderson, Sybil Temchen.

Location: South Keystone Art Cinemas. Director/writer Stu Pollard will answer questions after both Friday and Saturday night shows.

Running time: 92 minutes.

Rating: Not rated; bedroom scenes, horse stud scene, mild language.

Star ratings: 4 excellent, 3 good, 2 fair, 1 poor

By Bonnie Britton
STAFF WRITER

If the title *Nice Guys Sleep Alone* sounds familiar, it's because the Kentucky-shot film opening today at South Keystone Art Cinemas is based on Bruce Feirstein's book about the complexities of romance and dicey dilemmas of dating.

This good-looking contemporary comedy, written, directed and produced by Stu Pollard, formerly of Louisville, is low-key and sweet-natured, and features polished performances.



No moves: Sean O'Bryan (left), is a nice-guy teacher, and Blake Steury is his comic pal Pat in *Nice Guys Sleep Alone*.

A little more screwball thrown into the mix might have enlivened the proceedings, but for a low-budget, first-time feature, it's a respectable effort.

Sean O'Bryan (a perfect fit in the part), who starred in the short-lived ABC sitcom *Brother's Keeper*, is the nice guy of the title, a 31-year-old high-school English teacher named Carter, who never seems to get past the starting gate with

women, much less to the winner's circle.

He doesn't even *want* to sleep with a woman on a first date. He's *that* nice. Dates usually end an evening with Carter wanting to be "just friends," but he has enough friends.

A school field trip to a Kentucky horse farm puts him in touch with Maggie (a complex Sybil Temchen), a lonely New Yorker hired as the

farm's veterinarian, but he leaves without making a date or giving her his number.

Maggie, meanwhile, makes a big mistake by going on a date with Robert (Christopher Murray), the area's most eligible — and egotistical — bachelor.

Fort Wayne's Blake Steury, as Carter's pal Pat, provides comic relief and bad advice, especially when it comes to Carter's first date with Maggie.

Nice Guys Sleep Alone is a compact film without many fireworks. But it's full of gentle laughs and is steadily entertaining, such as when a horrified class looks on during a horse breeding. Maggie tries to extricate herself from Robert's attention (he leaves enough telephone numbers on her answering machine to service a small town), and Carter muses over his miserable dating record, fending off an unwanted advance from a manipulating hottie named Erin (Vanessa Marcil).

A couple of familiar faces fill small roles in *Nice Guys*, including Morgan Fairchild as the mother of a woman Carter dated, and William Sanderson, the Larry of Larry, Darryl and Darryl from *Newhart*, as the down-home horse-farm worker who dispenses useful advice.

Regional touches abound: Pollard nicely inserts many Louisville-associated icons, including Churchill Downs, the Belle of Louisville and Kentucky Wildcat references.

Nice Guys Sleep Alone reflects the "nice" part of the title: Pleasant, fun, hopeful.