



film

by m faust

The term "indie" in regards to movies has long since become as meaningless as "alternative" to music. But small productions still live on, like *Nice Guys Sleep Alone*, which opens at the Angelika this weekend. Filmed in Louisville, KY by producer/director/writer Stu Pollard, this romantic comedy about dating in the 1990s opens with the observation that the three worst words in the English language are "Let's be friends."

English teacher Carter (Sean O'Bryan) tends to hear those words a lot, being the sort of nice guy who fails to light a spark with the women he meets. He tries to change his approach when he meets Maggie (Sybil Temchen), a transplanted New Yorker whose poor attitude about Southern men hasn't been helped by an experience with a local millionaire who can't talk about any-

thing but his BMW and his ex-wife. Both Carter and Maggie will have to drop the baggage acquired by years of bad dates in order to get along with each other.

Will they succeed? No bets there. But the fun of *Nice Guys Sleep Alone* is in getting to that unsurprising conclusion. There are plenty of engaging characters to offer both parties advice (mostly bad) along the way, including a local lawyer who specializes in pre-relationship negotiations. He advertises on TV, and the testimonials from his clients are some of the funniest parts of the film. So too the faux country songs that dot the soundtrack and bolster city girl Maggie's dislike of the genre. At least I think they're parodies - can there really be a song that starts "I was drunk the day my ma got out of prison"? Pleasantly cast and nimbly sidestepping the usual pitfalls of romantic comedies, *Nice Guys Sleep Alone* is the perfect date movie.



Friends Blake Steury and Sean O'Bryan have better luck with horses than women in *Nice Guys Sleep Alone*.