

Review: Night at the Roxbury

By Michael Coursey
staff writer

A *Night at the Roxbury*, a Paramount Productions film, stars Saturday Night Live regulars Will Ferrell as Steve and Chris Kattan as Doug. They are two Saturday Night Fever-John Travolta-wannabees who cruise the L.A. club scene. They work by day in an artificial plant store, owned by their father, played by veteran actor Dan Hedaya, whose wife is played by Loni Anderson. The comedy starts off in a farcical kind of way, but falls far short when compared to other similar comedies.

After the success of *The Blues Brothers* and *Wayne's World*, this movie created from a successful skit on SNL, pales in comparison in comedic writing, timing and chemistry. The directing, production, and cinematography among other things were at most typical of a cable B-movie.

Adding to the misery was Molly Shannon as Steve's girlfriend Emily and a surprise appearance out of the mothballs by Richard Grieco, of *21 Jumpstreet* fame. The movie's only apparent plot was about Steve and Doug, a couple of moronic cruisers, looking for the ultimate "club babe." They are frustrated by their tedious work for their father, and only live for the night when they can don their *Miami Vice* outfits and chase the la-

dies in the clubs.

They run into problems with their chaotic method of dancing, when they continuously bump into the other people in the club. One thing is apparent that these brothers, Doug and Steve, have a strong bond for each other, and don't want that to end. When they are repeatedly turned down for admittance to the Roxbury Club, they find themselves in a hope-

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less situation, to be so close to the trendiest Club in L.A. and not being able to get in.

As luck would have it they get into a fender-bender with Richard Grieco (playing himself, and looking like he's had too many plates of lasagna) who is so afraid of getting sued by these geeks, that he takes them as his guest to the Roxbury.

This is where they meet the owner of the club, played by Chazz Palminteri and hook-up with a couple of barflies, Vivica and Cambi. They spend some time partying with them

until they find out they're a couple of losers.

Basically after that, Steve moves up his relationship with Emily and they move toward marriage. The problem with the movie is every time a joke or line was setup, 90% of the time it failed miserably. It seemed the skits on SNL had more thought and better timing than this movie that only ran a hour and 20 minutes. It's a shame that they put out inferior movies with obvious talent wasted; maybe some better writing and commitment would make a better product. I was immensely disappointed with this movie. Better to stay home and watch C-Span!

★★

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