

FREE

SEPTEMBER 26, 1986

VERIFIED  
AUDIT APPLIED FOR

## A FLIGHT OF RAINBIRDS

This seriocomic Dutch entry is a complicated but utterly fascinating meditation on self-discovery, surrealism, psychology and the disorienting power of sex. Sounds kind of like *Blue Velvet*, doesn't it? Well, it is, kind of, minus the violence and the weird visuals. But the two films explore similar thematic ground, and as much as I enjoyed David Lynch's critically canonized freakfest, Ate de Jong's subtler, emotionally truer picture moved me to the following heretical confession: I liked **A Flight of Rainbirds** better.

At first it seems like a baggy-pants comedy about an over-ripe male virgin. Jeroen Krabbe (*The Fourth Man*) appears to be an impotent, horn-rimmed dork, a cell biologist obsessed with cloning. But as we learn more about Krabbe's inner life through a sophisticated combination of flashbacks, nightmares, and even a doppelganger from his id, we come to see him as far more honorable than just some Oedipally fixated nerd.

Krabbe's magnificent double performance as the confused scientist and his snide alter ego makes for an astonishingly textured character study. The film is at once an excellent examination of the quiet craziness that comes from being lonely too long, and a celebration of faith in one's own, no matter how maddening, feelings. It also works fine as a wry European sex farce, if that's all you want out of it. I recommend pigging out and savoring every brilliant aspect of this very special Dutch treat.

—Bob Strauss

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## KRABBE BUT NICE

Playing villains is the newest twist in the career of Dutch actor **Jeroen Krabbe**, who relates he spent "20 years playing nothing but heroes and nice guys." Now he's the latest in a line of interesting, talented Europeans like Gert Frobe, Adolfo Celi and Klaus Maria Brandauer to take a stab at playing the heavy in a James Bond flick. In *The Living Daylights*, Krabbe will portray a villain he describes as "a wonderful guy. Of course he turns out to be the biggest crook ever."

He'll also play a bad guy in the new Richard Gere-Kim Basinger thriller, *No Mercy*. "I'm a real heavy and I get to kill everybody," Krabbe, by the way, confirms reports that Kim Basinger held up production by locking herself in her hotel room for a few days, but hastens to add that Kim was "a wonderful person, a delight to work with."

Lesser known than fellow Dutchman Rutger Hauer, Krabbe may be on his way to becoming America's first unpronounceable household name with the release of *Flight of Rainbirds* (see listings.) A huge hit in Holland, *Rainbirds* has Krabbe playing two parts: a shy cell biologist who's a 35-year-old virgin, and his alter ego who's trying to find him a girl. Funny, they both sound like nice guys. ■

—Steven Gaydos

BUZZ