

Cable review

'Stag'

By Irv Lotofsky

"Stag," another entry from HBO's World Premiere Movie division, is a gruesomely psychological drama about a stag party that gets bad, then badder, then baddest.

It's nicely shot and full of moralisms, but it's pointless at its essence.

Here's what writers Evan Taylor and Pat Bermel constructed from a story by Jason Schombing:

Young entrepreneur Vic (John Stockwell) is getting married, and his pal and city council candidate (Mario Van Peebles) helps set up a surprise stag party for him at his house with a mixed bag of friends.

Included are stressed Gulf War veteran Dan (Kevin Dillon), extortionist-drug dealer Pete (Andrew McCarthy), restaurateur Frank (Ben Gazzara), greeting card company owner Ben (Mark Blum), contractor-church treasurer Ed (Gerald Anthony), soap opera star Jon (William McNamara), accountant Timan (John Henson) and child-care worker and ex-football

STAG HBO

Geopix Film Properties/Rampage Entertainment
Executive producersGabrielle Kelly,
Joel Seckman, Andre Link
Produced by . John Dunning, Michael Pascornek
Co-producersEvan Taylor, Gavin Wilding
Line producerDerrick Tseng
Associate producerLauren McLaughlin
DirectorGavin Wilding
WritersEvan Taylor, Pat Bermel
Based on a story byJason Schombing
Director of photographyMaryse Alberti
Production designerPhyllis Cedar
CastingTom McSweeney, Nisa Pratt
EditorMark Sanders
MusicPaul J. Zaza
Cast: Andrew McCarthy, John Stockwell, Kevin Dillon, Taylor Dayne, Mario Van Peebles, Ben Gazzara, Mark Blum, Gerald Anthony, William McNamara, John Henson, Gregalan Williams, Jennifer Miller, William Prael, Jerry Suller
Aired: Saturday, June 28, 10-11:30 p.m.;
also July 3, 8, 14, 19 and 22

star Taylor (Gregalan Williams).

All get substantially smashed abusing alcohol and good sense. Then arrives the feature act — performers dressed as three cops, two of whom are female sex performers, including Serena (Taylor Dayne), with the third being their male guard.

How to put it? Things get out of hand. Not everybody lives through it and the survivors try to calculate how to survive the damage.

The various moral dilemmas don't quite make sense and most of them are reprehensible. Director Gavin Wilding gets some nice performances and achieves a desperately reckless mood. But what have we learned from all this? Nothing much. Or perhaps it shows what can happen when you let a lot of men out without supervision. □