

# Out on the Net, the Premiere Gay & Lesbian Site

ENTERTAINMENT



## Whole Hog Homophobia

Given the rampant homophobia motoring through Touchstone/Disney's latest comedy, "Wild Hogs," it seems fitting that screenwriter Brad Copeland's credits include writing for TV's "Arrested Development." Arrested development ... not just a sitcom, but perhaps an explanation for Copeland's sophomoric state of mind. (The film opened at #1 this weekend.)

Copeland might have looked to the 16-year-old "City Slickers" for clues as to how to write about midlife male bonding without resorting to sniggering scenarios of *ewww, you'd better not touch my man parts with your man parts or I'll scream*.

If 1991's three "City Slickers" could make it through a two-week cattle drive without resorting to "Deliverance" jokes, couldn't 2007's four "Wild Hogs" do the same? Maybe not.

According to "Wild Hogs" actor William H. Macy on the homophobic nature of the film, "We were all sensitive to it and cut a lot of it ... because it went into bashing mode."

Hmm—then such scenarios as a stalking highway patrolman hoping to get in on a four-on-the-floor-way, or a prancing Kyle Gass crooning "Don't you wish your girlfriend was hot like me," or the quartet caught in the act of cuddling half-naked on an inflatable mattress, then scrambling for cover in shame ... this is sensitive?

Similar to "City Slickers," the protagonist yearns to shake up his unhappy existence by swapping the humdrum for the thrum-thrum of his Harley. He convinces his best friends, also discontented, to take to the highway with him for a week-long escape.

But unlike "City Slickers," the characters stumble forward in a slapstick fog, unenlightened, uncommunicative, moving forward in miles only, their emotional progress permanently stuck in neutral.

Given that three of the four characters are unable to maintain healthy relationships with women, perhaps Copeland should have rethought the plot. The open road, two riders per 'cycle, a campfire under starry skies, honest male bonding, whether emotional or even, gasp!, physical? Wow. Presenting a "Brokeback Mountain" with Hogs 'stead of horses.

Now that would have been some "rite" of way.

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