Falling Down director defends the tone of his film

OEL SCHUMACHER
Interview by Chris Reborge

Falling Down, director Joel Schumacher's latest film, has a history of making films which appeal most strongly to a high school or college-age audience. Street films like Flatliners, The Lost Boys, and even St. Elmo's Fire all have swarms of teenage and twentysomething fans, including many here at MIT. Perhaps for this reason, after screening Falling Down for the local press, Schumacher made himself quite available to the college press to answer any questions they had about the movie. Joel Schumacher is an extremely pleasant and friendly man, and one who is quite aware of the strong association he has with "beat pack" films. When asked if he considered his latest film a departure of sorts, he replied that this was nothing more than a minor theme he introduced into the back

ground, but then he added, "I think we are a violent culture and there's a thin line between what's considered acceptable violence and what's considered unacceptable violence. The Rodney King incident certainly shows all of that. I suppose that when you put on a uniform it's alright." This is a very interesting point, but one that is never dealt with to any large degree in the film. There is a substantial line between what's considered acceptable violence and what Douglas does in this movie. There is an equally great distinction between Falling Down and what should be considered a truly good movie.

Directors, 9.

In an interview on February 26, 1993, Joel Schumacher, director of Falling Down, has a history of making films which appeal most strongly to a high school or college-age audience. Street films like Flatliners, The Lost Boys, and even St. Elmo's Fire all have swarms of teenage and twentysomething fans, including many here at MIT. Perhaps for this reason, after screening Falling Down for the local press, Schumacher made himself quite available to the college press to answer any questions they had about the movie. Joel Schumacher is an extremely pleasant and friendly man, and one who is quite aware of the strong association he has with "beat pack" films. When asked if he considered his latest film a departure of sorts, he replied that this was nothing more than a minor theme he introduced into the back

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Director Joel Schumacher says of his film, "I felt that there was a critical mass building in culture...I wanted to be in people's faces about what was going on."

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