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Angel River (U.S.-MEXICAN-COLOR)

A Robert Renfield-Dasa Films coproduction, in association with Estudios Churubusco. Produced by Robert Renfield. Directed by Sergio Olhovich Greene. Screenplay Renfield; camera (color), Rosalio Solano; art director, Teresa Pecanins; editor, Victor Petrashevich, Suzanne Fenn; music, El Garcia Campos; casting, Pat Edden. Reveiwed at World Film Fest, Montreal, Aug. 23, 1986. Running time: 92 MINS.

Jensie Lynn-Holly Johnson
Toral Salvador Sanchez
Hannah Janet Sunderland
Zach Peter Matthey
Dee Joey Shea

Montreal — Producer of this low-budget indie coproduction Robert Renfield was responsible for the screenplay (based on the novel "Rockspring" by Vilet), and thus must shoulder the blame for an incredibly old-fashioned pic. Indeed story and dialog could have been used without change for an early silent.

Pic opens with beautiful, virginal blond Jensie (Lynn-Holly Johnson) unwisely bathing in a picturesque river. She's spied by a cheerful, bearded Mexican bandit (Salvador Sanchez) who practically twirls his mustache in evil anticipation. He kidnaps and rapes her.

Later on, she manages to shoot

him, but he cries out for help, and instead of ankling back to her beloved parents (hard-working sons of the soil) she stays to tend his wound and, yes, falls in love with him. He has a cave (a very obvious studio set) full of stolen treasure, including clothes and jewelry and candelabras and so on, so although their source of food isn't always clear, they're living high until our heroine, now a Woman, wants to go home.

"You'll meet my folks and they'll

understand," she says, and that gives some idea of the level of the dialog. Whether they do or not, we never discover. She's left, as she started out, by the river, sadder but (maybe) wiser.

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"Angel River" is without distinction on any level, least of all the wan acting, though admittedly even the best actors would find trouble with this plot. —Strat.