

Document Citation

Title The apartment

Author(s)

Source Publisher name not available

Date

Type synopsis

Language English

Pagination 96-98

No. of Pages 2

Subjects

Film Subjects The apartment, Wilder, Billy, 1960

37 THE APARTMENT (1960)

Production Company:

Producer:

Associate Producers:

Production Manager:

Director:

Assistant Director:

Script:

Director of Photography:

Editor:

Art Director:
Set Decorator:
Special Effects:

Sound: Cast: Mirisch Company Billy Wilder

I. A. L. Diamond, Doane Harrison

Allen K. Wood Billy Wilder Hal Polaire

I. A. L. Diamond, Billy Wilder Joseph LaShelle (Panavision)

Daniel Mandell
Alexander Trauner
Edward G. Boyle
Milton Rice
Fred Lau

Jack Lemmon (C. C. "Bud" Baxter),
Shirley MacLaine (Fran Kubelik),
Fred MacMurray (J. D. Sheldrake),
Ray Walston (Dobisch), David Lewis
(Kirkeby), Jack Kruschen (Dr. Dreyfuss), Joan Shawlee (Sylvia), Edie
Adams (Miss Olsen), Hope Holiday
(Margie MacDougall), Johny Seven
(Karl Matuschka), Naomi Stevens
(Mrs. Dreyfuss), Frances Weintraub
Lax (Mrs. Leiberman), Joyce Jameson
(The Blonde), Willard Waterman

(Vanderhof), David White

(Eichelberger), Benny Burt (The Bartender), Hal Smith (The Santa

WARNING: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code)

Claus)

The Films: Synopsis, Credits and Notes

Filmed on location in New York City and at the Goldwyn Studios in Hollywood, November 1959-February 1960.

Released: June, 1960
Running time: 125 mins.
Distributor: United Artists

Note: The Wilder-Diamond script was the basis for the Broadway musical

Promises, Promises (See #230).

Synopsis:

Bud Baxter has discovered a novel way to advance in the Manhattan insurance firm that employs him: he lends his apartment key to four philandering executives in return for glowing efficiency reports from them. As a result, Bud earns several promotions in quick succession.

But at home, Bud leads a lonely life, eating TV dinners and watching old movies on television. His only pleasure is reading the fashion section of <u>Playboy</u>, noting the clothing styles of young executives on the go.

One evening, Dobisch, a keyholder, calls late and asks to use the apartment. Bud protests, but when yet another promotion is offered as enticement, Bud relents and spends the evening on a park bench. When Bud arrives for work the next morning, he strikes up a conversation with Fran Kubelik, the cute elevator operator. He has a crush on her, but has been too shy to ask for a date.

Later, J. D. Sheldrake, the big boss, confronts Bud about the key. Bud fears that he will be fired, but Sheldrake reveals that he wants to use the key and mentions the possibility of Bud's attaining an executive position. Excited, Bud finds the courage to ask Fran out. She accepts, but she must first break a prior engagement—with Sheldrake, who had kept Fran as his mistress and now wants to resume the affair. Fran resists at first but eventually succumbs, standing Bud up as she agrees to spend the night with Sheldrake.

As the weeks pass, Sheldrake monopolizes the apartment while Bud settles in to his new job. At the office Christmas party, Bud and Fran talk for the first time since their abortive date; Bud discovers that she is the girl that Sheldrake has been bringing to his apartment.

Dejected, Bud retires to a bar, where he gets drunk and picks up a floozie. Meanwhile, Fran and Sheldrake meet at the apartment. Fran, who had been warned by Sheldrake's secretary about his habitual philandering, confronts him with the information. When he reacts with indifference and leaves, the depressed Fran takes an overdose of sleeping pills.

When Bud arrives, he finds Fran unconscious on his bed. Dr. Dreyfuss, Bud's downstairs neighbor, helps to revive Fran.

The Films: Synopsis, Credits and Notes

When Dreyfuss starts to make out a report, Bud pleads with him to keep the incident quiet. He consents, but the request only confirms his opinion that Bud is a scoundrel.

The next day, Bud informs Sheldrake about the incident, but he expresses more concern about a possible scandal than Fran's welfare. Later, however, Bud manages to convince Franthat Sheldrake still cares. While Bud plays nursemaid to Fran, he falls in love with her.

The following day, Bud and Fran don't show up for work. When Fran's brother-in-law Karl arrives at the office to find Fran, he is sent to Bud's apartment, where, mistaking the situation, he decks Bud with a sock to the jaw. Fran gives the stunned Bud a kiss before she leaves. Convinced that Fran is in love with him, Bud resolves to tell Sheldrake that he will take the girl off his hands. But Sheldrake informs him that his wife, who has learned of his extra-marital activities, is going to divorce him and that he plans to marry Fran.

On New Year's Eve, Sheldrake asks Bud for the key, but Bud refuses. When Sheldrake threatens to fire him, Bud gives him a key—to the executive washroom. Bud then quits and decides to leave town. That night, Sheldrake mentions Bud's actions to Fran. She suddenly realizes that Bud loves her. When the clock strikes midnight, she hastens to the apartment to see in the new year with Bud.