

The Lincoln Lawyer

Matthew McConaughey. What can you say about this actor? He's been around a long time, but his films thus far have been about surfer dudes (seriously, the 2008 film was called *Surfer, Dude*), adventurers (as in the 2005 film *Sahara* or the 2008 blunder *Fool's Gold*), or a seemingly endless string of garden variety fluffy romance comedies (really--a ton of those, like 2006 *Failure to Launch* or 2003 *How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days*). It was in fact 2003 since I've seen him in something because everything that he's been in has not been my taste. Whose taste do they appeal to? I'm not sure, but I am certain that somebody reading this will say, "Who is this guy (meaning me) to bust on my Matthew? What a hunk he is (meaning that guy—certainly not me)!"

Then there comes *The Lincoln Lawyer*. In this film, McConaughey plays a defense attorney who loves his work of getting the scum of the earth out of sticky legal situations. He makes his office in the back of a dated Lincoln Continental, where he has a driver escorting him around after a DUI incident a number of months back. So I love the premise, which shows great promise. But Matthew McConaughey? Do you mean you're really going to get me into a theater where a Matthew McConaughey film is playing?

As if the premise wasn't enough to lure me in, the film stars Marisa Tomei. Heck, I don't even have to like a movie to enjoy Marisa in it. Look at last year's *Cyrus*? What an odd, too odd to like, movie. But did I like her in it? Well... And I've always like William H. Macy, whose characters are convincing and his delivery although in the same vein flows differently every time. He cleans up well, and he gets grungy well too.

The Lincoln Lawyer delivers. And I'm not just saying that because I like legal thrillers (and let's not kid ourselves, that's all this is), but this does not sacrifice story for stereotype—and McConaughey (here it is, he's going to say it) pulls off his character's tormented and trapped nature beautifully. Wow! Have things changed for McConaughey? Will I rush to see his next movie? I guess time will tell.

And let me end with an apology. To Val Kilmer. It would seem that some comments I made in my last column about the "once-trim" actor were taken as an insult. I never want to seem holier-than-thou (holier than Val?), so I will say I'm in no position (or "shape" if you will) to be throwing stones at Val Kilmer. We always want your feedback: write us at capemayfilm@hotmail.com