

WIND

Review by Gail & John Arkins - FVFS

USA 1992

FilmLink International 126 minutes

Director: Carroll Ballard, Producer: Francis Ford Coppola, Tom Luddy,
Screenplay: Rudy Wurlitaer, Mac Gudgeon, Photography: John Toll, Music:
Basil Poledouris

Cast: Matthew Modine (Will Parker), Jennifer Grey (Kate Bass), Cliff
Roberston (Morgan Weld), Jack Thompson (Jack Neville), Stellan Skarsgård,
Rebecca Miller (Abigail Weld)

A film for sailors or would be sailors that is too long and very American
Centric. The story of losing the America's Cup and then winning it back again
is based in history. In this case the characters have been changed and for
those who have lived through the time it is hard to relate to the characters.

This film has some amazing yachting sequences and is brilliantly
photographed. If there is any reason to watch it this is one of them.

The characters are predictable, their language simple and the plot is America
looses cup through accident, then gains it back through individual brilliance
and a better boat.

The first part of the film moves quite well but from there on, it drags and takes
too long for even the simplest tasks. The tacking dual on the last leg of Race
7 in Australia goes on for so long you feel that you have been sailing it
yourself.

The film could have been shortened by about an hour without losing any
meaning to the story.

We would rate this as a 3 star film.

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Review by Ian and Susan Davidson- FVFS

Although supposedly about losing the America's Cup yachting trophy to
Australia in 1983 and then winning it back again in 1987, this film bears no
relationship with reality. In the credits they even state it is a work of fiction and
any similarity to real people is coincidental!

In WIND, the Americans lose their coveted cup to the Australians in 1983, not
through any smart sailing or technology advantage of the Australians, but
basically through bad luck! Then in 1987, they win it back through the

technological advantage of special sails designed by an aircraft designer working in Dead Man's Flat – in the desert.

A quick comparison between the film and recorded fact will demonstrate how far this is from being a documentary.

The real winning yacht in 1983 was Australia II (with its winged keel) winning against Liberty 4 races to 3. In 1987, the American Stars and Stripes (San Diego Yacht Club) won the Cup back from Kookaburra III 4 races to 0.

But they say, never let the facts get in the way of a good story. If you put them aside, you are left with a story of a man who loses his girlfriend then wins her back again, interweaved with the story of man who loses the America's Cup then wins it back again. The story has its weaknesses and is predictable but there are good action shots of big yachts racing neck and neck through pounding seas. Editing is slick enough to believe you are really on the spot.

Probably a good selection for anyone wanting to experience some ocean racing, but I really cannot say how close this is to the real thing. For that the viewer should perhaps go to something like ALL IS LOST starring Robert Redford.

Susan and I each scored this 3.5 stars (out of 5)