

*The Wolfe Pack
The Nero Wolfe
Literary Society*

A NERO WOLFE MYSTERY

Death of a Doxy

The Reviews

BARRY GARRON | HOLLYWOOD REPORTER | APRIL 13, 2002

To save you the trouble of looking it up, a doxy is a sweetheart or mistress. That some brilliant marketing executive hasn't changed the title of this Nero Wolfe movie to get rid of the archaic word is more evidence -- if any were needed -- that this series of original movies intends to stay true to its roots and its heritage.

And that's good news not only for fans of Rex Stout's famous, corpulent detective, but for anyone who enjoys a well-executed period mystery.

In this, the second-season premiere of the Nero Wolfe movies, director-exec producer Timothy Hutton returns as Archie Goodwin, Wolfe's clever and self-confident assistant, and Maury Chaykin is back as the eccentric genius detective. They seem even more comfortable with their characters, as does the supporting cast, which includes Bill Smitrovich as Inspector Cramer and Conrad Dunn as freelance operative Saul Panzer.

The yarn, about another operative who is arrested for the murder of a showgirl, is an engaging tale that brings together an eclectic group of suspects. The smart adaptation by Sharon Elizabeth Doyle, combined with the classy, jazzy background music of Michael Small and the convincing '50s look and feel, makes this movie faithful to Stout's colorful characters but unequivocally fun for a contemporary audience.