

**Hickey & Boggs
Eclectic**

Watching the new DVD release of *Hickey & Boggs*, many viewers will likely be tempted to adjust the antenna on their sets, or to anticipate periodic breaks in the action for vinyl siding commercials. Together with the hideous 1970s' attire, the terrible grainy transfer of the disc gives the whole enterprise the look and feel of a Saturday afternoon movie, broadcast on a channel

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not carried by cable or satellite operators. Through the static, it's difficult to decipher the story of two private detectives, played by old *Spy* partners Bill Cosby and Robert Culp. They've been hired to find a girl, which leads them to some stolen money, but beyond that little is clear. Culp directs here, too, and he makes some interesting choices as a director, though they do little to explain the baffling plot. Dialogue is sparse, and since the audience is told few character names, it's nearly impossible to keep track of which ugly villain is which. There are some near set pieces — the stakeout at the Raiders game and the shootout at the Dodgers game, apparently within days of each other, are ambitious at least. But the whole package is so muddled it's tough to decide whose to blame for this confusing mess: Is it the cruddy handling of the release (a typo in the *magazine*) or the lack of director Culp's ability? (Brandon Oropallo)