

The slug, above, is just one example of the achingly bad dialogue from the movie "[Tough Guys Don't Dance](#)", written, adapted and directed by none other than Norman Mailer. He could have done us all a favour and left with just the writing credit. **Pawn** wasted a couple precious hours of his life last night watching this exemplar of bad acting, as [Ryan O'Neal](#), [Issabella Rossellini](#) and [Debra Sandlund](#) cavort through a pathetic mystery involving several meaningless murders and several meaningless characters.



A particularly humorous scene involves O'Neal and Rossellini's characters, an apparently adventurous couple, deciding to go visit "The Big Stoop," a baptist preacher who's into wife swapping on the side, played by none other than [Penn Jillette](#), of Penn and Teller fame. That character's name, by the way, derives from the fact that he's sexually well endowed, but a little dim. Not enough of a man for Sundland, it seems. [John Bedford Lloyd](#) turns in perhaps the most intelligent performance, made even more striking by the stilted and improbable dialog, such as "I am so wrong for this kind of *imbroglio*." I'd swear that Kevin Spacey based his performance in "Midnight in the garden of good and evil" on Lloyd's efforts.