

## **RISE OF THE FOOTSOLDIER**

*(Cert 18; 120 mins)*

**MACHO** British gangster flick *Rise Of The Footsoldier* may be based on the true story of three drug dealers shot dead in rural Essex but we all know the real inspiration is Martin Scorsese's classic *Goodfellas*.

Director Julian Gilbey apes the Scorsese film by following the exploits of another raw recruit as he rises through the ranks to the very heart of organised crime.

Carlton Leach (Ricci Harnett) is the cocky football hooligan who muscles his way into a gang, experiencing all the thrills and fear of being in close proximity to the likes of the psychopathic Pat Tate (Craig Fairbrass) and the sinister Tony Tucker (Terry Stone).

He is the one who will identify the corpses of the three drug dealers although the fact that he has the slimmest connection to the killings makes the film a bit pointless. *Footsoldier* is told with some style but adds little to a genre where familiarity has bred a healthy indifference to yet another epic helping of violence and brutality.