

Rabbie Burds!



MISSUS: Rabbie courts Jean (Lucy Russell)



SMOOCHING: With Maria (Rebecca Palmer)

BARD GETS TO GRIPS WITH

LOOK who's being a very bard boy!

These sizzling scenes from the new Robbie Burns film show how he was well-versed in seduction...

Made in Scotland, Red Rose portrays the poet as a hard-drinking, sex-crazed bed-hopper.

Hunky Michael Rodgers fills the Ayrshire legend's breeks in the flick, which is already being tipped as the biggest home-grown blockbuster since 1996's *Braveheart*.

The gripping love story focuses on the last six years of Burns's life, when he lived in Dumfries and was bedding aristocrat Maria Riddell — while still married to Jean Armour. It tells how Burns' expensive tastes

EXCLUSIVE

BY ANDREA VANCE

and cash demands from women who bore his illegitimate children led to financial ruin.

On the day of his death in 1796 from rheumatism aged 36, loyal Jean gave birth to their second child — but it was the penniless poet's 15th.

LA-based Michael, 35, from West Lothian, landed the juicy role after a star turn alongside Mel Gibson in *The Patriot*, plus parts in hit US telly shows *Charmed*, *NYPD Blue* and *Will And Grace*.

Posh Maria is played by Quilts star Rebecca Palmer, while Lucy Russell

— fresh from filming *Batman Begins* with Michael Caine an

M'LADIES: Sarah (left) Gertrude and Lady Glen watch Rab charm posh Maria



GIRLS IN NEW SCOTS MOVIE

Gary Oldman — stars as betrayed Jean. But Rabbie is surrounded by plenty of other women too...

Anna Winslet, sister of Titanic star Kate, is gossipy socialite Gertrude Miller, while Zoe Davies plays Sarah Maxwell, sister of Rabbie's pal Doctor Maxwell.

And keeping a disapproving eye on them all is Patricia Ford, who plays Maria's nasty mother-in-law, Lady Glen Maxwell.

Red Rose will be screened at the glitzy Monaco International Film Festival in December and should hit our cinemas next year. Last night

producer Mairi Sutherland, who with director hubby Robbie Moffat owns Ayrshire makers Palm Tree Productions, said: "We're thrilled it's been selected to be shown at the festival. "Robbie and I will attend with some of the cast and I'm sure it will be a very glamorous affair."

Burns has not been depicted on the big screen since Terrance Alexander picked up his quill in *Comin' Thro The Rye* in 1947.

A second biopic, starring Mrs Brown star Gerard Butler, is due to start filming next year.

