

Movie reviews



Jodie Foster, with Adam Hann-Byrd, directed and stars in 'Little Man Tate.'

Foster explores the problems of the gifted in her directorial debut

by Jared Dean

If extreme intelligence breeds depression, then Jodie Foster has realistically depicted life with the gifted.

In her directorial debut, Foster has brought us a story about Fred Tate, a 10-year-old with the intelligence of an adult, and a mother (played by Foster) with the outlook of a child.

MOVIE REVIEW

Little Man Tate (★★★)

Starring Jodie Foster
Directed by Jodie Foster

An interesting premise alone, a literary outsider (Diane Weist) is added who wants to study, and ultimately write a book about Fred.

The conflict comes into play when Foster decides she doesn't want her child "over-tested" and doesn't want him to attend a three-week "Olympic odyssey of the Mind" with Weist. There is a confrontation and ultimately a give on the part of Foster.

The three week "Olympic" odyssey and subsequent enrollment in college prove to be pleasant, yet uneventful as far as Fred is concerned. The focus seemed to be on Foster and Weist and their dealing with each other and not enough centered on the intellect of Fred. His emotional distress is played well, but too far and too much.

Foster has chosen to emphasize the negative and we leave with a feeling of relief. Relief that we don't have to deal with the gifted and their basket of problems.

Scorsese's 'Cape Fear' is surprisingly run-of-the-mill

by Ched Whitney

Thanks to teen-age slasher movies, audiences have been numbed to violence in film. These days true horror is achieved only in thrillers through psychological suspense.

The Silence of the Lambs constructed its suspense by describing violent acts while building up its villain, while at the same time leaving something to its audience's imagination.

Martin Scorsese, with his remake of Cape Fear, builds suspense the same way, but in the

end, leaves his audience in the wind to twist as he stoops to conventional horror-movie techniques.

Nick Nolte plays attorney Sam Bowden, a former public defender who had represented convict Max Cady.

After serving 14 years, Cady (Robert DeNiro) returns to the small town where Bowden practices law. It seems that Bowden suppressed some evidence in Cady's case. Cady has spent the intervening time teaching himself to read and studying law.

Upon his release, Cady sets out to harass—although, not illegally at first—Bowden's family.

Scorsese's most compelling story line

involves Cady's relationship with Bowden's 15-year-old daughter Danielle (brilliantly played by Juliette Lewis). Danielle is confused and unsure. Cady tries to take advantage of this, to convince her that her parents are her enemies, not him. And we are horrified when he is successful.

The script does not expand upon the fact that it is Danielle, and not Sam's wife Leigh (Jessica Lange), who becomes Cady's focus.

MOVIE REVIEW

Cape Fear (★★★½)

Starring Robert DeNiro, Nick Nolte
Jessica Lange, Juliette Lewis, Robert Mitchum and Gregory Peck. Directed by Martin Scorsese

Surprisingly Scorsese gives up on the suspenseful storylines and opts for

a conventional ending.

DeNiro turns in a convincing performance, but Max Cady is no Hannibal Lecter and the ending takes away some of the mystery about him.

Robert Mitchum, who played Max Cady in the 1962 original, and Gregory Peck, the original Sam Bowden, have cameos.

The cast is top notch; technically the movie is top notch. Cape Fear looks great, as Scorsese gets the most out of his cinematographer; it is probably the best looking horror movie ever. Although Cape Fear could have been a classic, it is not.

'The People Under the Stairs' not worth the time nor the \$6.75

by Jared Dean

What's in a name? Or, more directly, what's in the name Wes Craven? Apparently nothing worth wasting your time, intelligence, and \$6.75.

So he hit once with Nightmare On Elm Street. He sure misses with The People Under the Stairs. In fact, this movie should have been buried under the stairs with the mutants.

The basic story is about two people, a man and woman, who have been adopting children to try and raise one who will see no evil, hear no evil, and most of all, speak no evil. If this child doesn't meet up to the

expectations of his surrogate parents, the offensive part is severed (speak evil - remove tongue, etc.) and thrust into a cage under the stairs, thus we achieve the title.

Conflict comes into it when a child of the ghetto

tries to steal money from the parents who are also owners of the building he lives in and

is soon to be evicted from unless he comes up with triple rent.

In order to extricate himself from his current predicament, he has to acquire the help of his sister's

boyfriend. Together they enter the house and are immediately trapped.

Facing such obstacles as an angry dog, insane man, and timid girl they fill the last hour of the movie with chase scenes

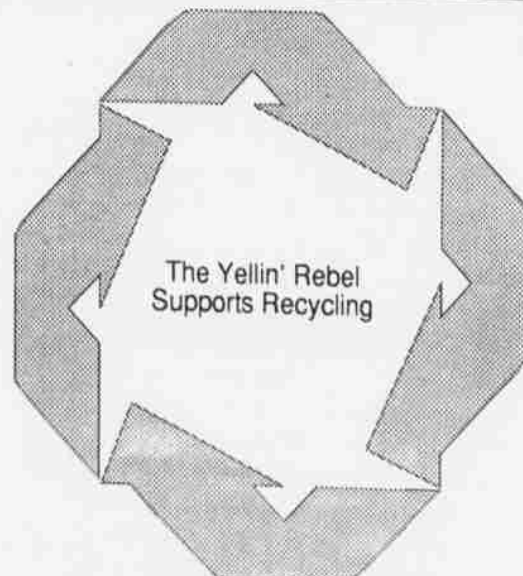
in which the boyfriend is killed and eaten.

Don't waste your time. This movie isn't worth the cellulite it was printed on and doesn't even serve as mild amusement to fill in between your evening dinner and bedtime.

MOVIE REVIEW

The People Under the Stairs (★)
Directed by Wes Craven.

Recycle this paper!



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V

19,500 students.

One student newspaper.

You do the math...

