


'Fire Walk With Me' torches 'Twin Peaks'

by Daniel W. Duffy

As the credits rolled at the conclusion of the new film, *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me*, a lone tear rolled down my face. All the heart and soul of the quirky TV series which spurred this film seemed lost in the woods of the Pacific Northwest. No more donuts, no more cherry pie, no more damn good coffee. Director David Lynch has taken his bizarre narrative style a step too far with this one, leaving the audience asking, "huh?"

I never watched "Twin Peaks" during its abbreviated run on network television because at the time, it seemed too trendy. People who had never heard of David Lynch were coming out of the woodwork to quickly befriend and then betray the unusual TV series. I waited until the hoopla was over and borrowed all the episodes from a friend.

"Peaks" was an odd experiment in television in that there were no quick

 **Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me**
Starring Sheryl Lee, Ray Wise and Kyle MacLachlan.
Directed by David Lynch.

answers to the original storyline "Who Killed Laura Palmer?" Viewers and critics alike wanted a quick-fix—they had to know who killed Laura Palmer (Sheryl Lee)—and they wanted it right away. So when the show spread the storyline out like butter, viewers wiggled out and bailed on the show, thus it was cancelled after the second season. True, the second season paled in comparison to the first, but it was ten times better than most of the crap on TV at the time or today for that matter.

The cancellation was a real shame, because after going back and watching all the episodes, I really enjoyed the outlandish antics of the residents of Twin Peaks. The Laura Palmer story was secondary in my mind to the wacky townsfolk interacting with one

another, in an "Northern Exposure" kind of way. I imagine the oddness of "Twin Peaks" paved the way for shows like "Exposure."

Back to the film. *Fire Walk With Me* is actually a prequel leading up to the events of the night Laura Palmer was killed. During the height of the TV show's popularity, Lynch's

daughter Jennifer wrote a book titled "The Secret Diary of Laura Palmer" which was in essence, a tour through the darkest side of Laura Palmer's head. The book was intriguing and only somewhat confusing. Not confusing in a bad way, but the family Lynch has a funny way of telling stories

(especially "Twin Peaks") where it winds up being like a riddle. I was hoping the film would be much of the same, maybe not a carbon copy of what Lynch's daughter had written, but something in a similar vein.

The visual style of *Fire Walk With Me* does explore the dark, hypnotic side of the haunted homecoming queen Laura Palmer, but Lynch took too much license with the story. It doesn't make a lick of sense, even to someone who watched the TV series and read "The Secret Diary." If I hadn't been familiar with the "Peaks" story, I would have been even more lost than I already was. There is absolutely no tangible storyline to be found.

Mark Frost, who created and co-wrote many of the episodes with Lynch, didn't contribute to the

I really dig David Lynch flicks, but *Fire Walk With Me* lacks the delicate storytelling needed to unfold the mystery behind Laura Palmer.

The whole film is really open-ended, so I'm hoping Lynch has something in mind like the latest Guns N' Roses videos. G N' R are basing several videos on a book by Del James where each video doesn't make a whole lot of sense apart from the others, but after they are all released, the story will come together. Hopefully Lynch hasn't presented us with an enigma, but has only begun to spin the intertwining thread of another Lynchian riddle.

As is true with every other David Lynch film or project, repeated viewings are usually necessary to get a better grasp of what

Lynch took too much license with the story. It doesn't make a lick of sense, even to someone who watched the TV series

screenplay. I think it was Frost that kept Lynch in check to keep some semblance of a story in the TV show, and without his counterbalance, the movie suffers. Don't get me wrong,

this strange man from Missoula, Montana is saying. For now I'm disappointed with *Fire Walk With Me*, but perhaps Mr. Lynch has only whet my appetite for what's to come in Twin Peaks.

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