

'Untamed Heart' breaks the chains of love

by Daniel W. Duffy

The new Christian Slater-Marisa Tomei film *Untamed Heart* was originally titled *Baboon Heart*. Its not exactly a film about organ transplants from primates, but more of a beautiful fable of a woman who finds an unusual prince charming, a virtual *Hunchback of Notre Dame* for the '90s.

The film starts with a young Slater in an orphanage where he suffers from a heart condition. A nun tells him a story of how he was born in the jungle with a weak heart and that while his father tried to steal some magic rubies from silver baboons to heal his son, the king of the baboons killed his father. Fortunately he had an organ donor sticker on the back of his driver's license, I mean, the king of the baboons learned of the man's selfless bravery and ripped out his own heart to give to the boy.

Although the story starts with Slater, it belongs to



Christian Slater.

Tomei. She plays a waitress who has a revolving door of men she dates, but has a hard time making any one of them stay. One night while walking home, she is accosted and nearly raped by some thugs until Slater, now a reclusive busboy Tomei works

Untamed Heart 
 Starring Christian Slater, Marisa Tomei and Rosie Perez.
 Directed by Tony Bill.

with, comes to save the day.

Like Quasimodo, Slater is considered an outcast, yet Tomei takes the time to get to know him and discovers he is a beautiful person. She learns he is a little boy lost who has never known love other than from a motherly nun at the orphanage he grew up in. The thawing of the Minnesota winter sets the perfect backdrop for the defrosting of Slater's cool world.

Untamed Heart could have easily turned into a sappy hospital drama or a cheesy movie-of-the-week like "The Boy in the Plastic Bubble," but it doesn't. It keeps to a slice-of-life romance between two characters who separate-

ly are confused, but "together we make sense."

Heart has much of the same working class flavor found in *Frankie and Johnny* combined with the eternal romance of *Love Story*. The film is shot in subdued colors, not unlike an Ethel M's chocolate ad and makes use of a lot of hand-held camera work.

Structurally, *Untamed Heart* works more like a European film. The story takes it time to evolve and stops to smell the roses along the way by exploring different tangents. Unfortunately like foreign films, *Untamed Heart* probably won't reach a large audience. Kudos to MGM for making a film like this, though.

As far as Slater is concerned, this movie should have been called "Untamed Lid." Slater's hair is so unruly and out-of-control, he looks like he just walked of the set of *Quest For Fire II*. But really, Slater plays the part of the orphaned loner with such despair and primitive loneliness,

it's moving. This may be the role Slater needed to graduate on to adult roles after his last two films *Kuffs* and *Mobsters* didn't exactly go over like gangbusters with critics or fans.

Tomei plays the part with such delicacy and Midwest charm that one can't help but be taken in by her. It's hard to believe she's the same tough-talking, New York hair chick from *My Cousin Vinny*.

Luckily, the ultra-annoying Rosie Perez only has a minimal supporting role as Tomei's best friend, because if I had to listen to more than five or 10 minutes of dialogue from her, I would go mad. Does anyone understand a word this woman says? It's all pops and buzzes from here.

All I can say is I'm a romantic-kind-of-guy and I like this movie. Unlike *Ghost* and other contrived films of this genre (and no pun intended), this film has a lot of heart.

For Murray, 'Groundhog's Day' is like deja vu all over again


by Hollywood Rob

When was the last time Bill Murray made a movie that could be described any other way than "marginal—at best?" Wait no more because Murray has finally made one right up there with *Caddyshack*, *Stripes* and *Meatballs*.

Groundhog Day is one of the funniest films I've seen in years. I had lost hope for Murray. It seems that every movie released since the aforementioned comedy classics has been billed as either "Bill Murray's funniest movie yet" or "A return to form for Bill Murray." It's really ironic that this one got released with little fanfare because it's absolutely hilarious.

Murray portrays the most sarcastic, bitter, miserable person on earth, basically mirroring his *Scrooged* character. This time he's a weatherman stuck for the third year in a row with an assignment he absolutely loathes: going to Puxatawney, Penn. to cover the world's most famous meteorologist forecast for the next six weeks.

If going through it once

Groundhog's Day 
 Starring Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell and Chris Elliot.
 Directed by Harold Ramis.

wasn't bad enough for him, *Groundhog Day* repeats so Murray can do anything he wants with no consequences.

This is basically the whole story, but under director Harold Ramis' steady hand, a premise that could have gone south works unbelievably well. This is due to a balanced dose of Murray and the events that surround him. As has been proved time and again, you can't expect something funny to happen because you have a comedian in a movie. It's refreshing to see a whole cast of loonies and crazy events around Murray.

It's also an extremely well-crafted romantic comedy with Andie MacDowell playing the main love interest.

Groundhog Day is satisfying in almost every aspect. I



Rita (Andie MacDowell) and Phil (Bill Murray) do their best to leave crumbs in the bed in the new movie 'Groundhog Day.'

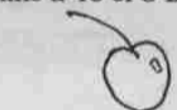
can only think of one nagging detail that is left unexplained: Why is he stuck in this day? Other than that detail, I suggest you see *Groundhog Day*.

There hasn't been a comedy since *Wayne's World* that has been so funny for its entire length. That's impressive.

Ratings Scale

8

•The Goods•
 Smooth and Satisfying
 like a 40 of 8 Ball



•Solid Flick•
 Cherry, like
 a '76 Econoline



•Tame•
 Have a Day



•Cheesy•
 Like Fromage



Monsieur La Trine says the film, she is like that of beeg hunk of sheet.