

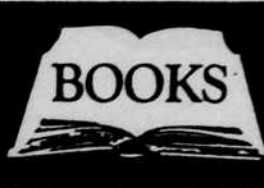
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CINEMA

Thriller with social concerns

Review by Deborah S. McGee

Suspect

Suspect succeeds where *Fatal Attraction* does not. Both promise a suspense thriller, but only *Suspect* delivers.

Fatal Attraction's box office appeal continues because it explores common "forbidden" territory: infidelity. *Suspect* makes it because it gives us a truly sexy thriller, starring two of the hottest people working in Hollywood.

Cher looks great as Kathleen Riley, public defender assigned to a murder case involving a transient Vietnam veteran. Her role is a rarity from the Hollywood mill: an admirable woman who's smart, committed, and doesn't let a man pull any more than her heart strings.

Cher's marvelous cackle is intact and punctuates *Suspect* at just the right moment. Director Peter Yates taps well into Cher's acting ability, a reservoir hinted at in *Silkwood*, and somewhat more apparent in *Mask* and *The Witches of Eastwick*. Former pop star/singer Cher is philosophical about her movie work: "Sometimes I feel like an old hooker," she told the *New York Times* recently, "You know, just because they've stayed alive and stayed around, people

start to respect them."

Dennis Quaid is as much a hunk as in *The Big Easy*. As Eddie Sanger, a milk industry lobbyist reluctantly pressed into jury duty, he has the reckless charm of Clark Gable, and is gorgeous in his neutral-toned, well-cut duds. *Suspect's* plot has a major flaw: we're supposed to believe that overnight Quaid turns from apparent self-centeredness into deep concern. Director Yates pulls off this irregular twist of plot largely because of Quaid's depth, most apparent when as an involved juror he searches among the Washington, D.C. homeless.

Liam Nesson plays the vet defendant whose life was shattered—and never repaired—in Vietnam. Both deaf and mute, Nesson has a role actors would starve for. Look for his name when Oscar nominations for best supporting actor are announced next spring. He's fine in a way reminiscent of Chief Bromden in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. *Suspect's* gutter's eye view of the homeless often is juxtaposed with Capitol Hill pomp and circumstance, bespeaking a concern for humanity which raises the movie above the level of sheer

entertainment.

Forty years after the Hollywood witch trials, which saw many L.A. careers wrecked or aborted, the energy nourished in City of Angels soil—epitomized by John Huston—is that of compassion. It's why a lover of the celluloid medium never gives up on Hollywood. You'll never see it in advertising for *Suspect*, but the film's power lies not in its terrific stars, nor its ability to keep us on seat's edge, but in its naked view of the human gutter.

As entertainment alone, though, it's a peach. Opening titles come on all steel-grey, blue and under-lighted cold shadows. Cinematography makes the most of minimalist shots, stripped down to the harshest of lines and the bleakest of shadows. Recurrent sounds are as masterfully executed as in Orson Welles' work. Unlike *Fatal Attraction*, the ending is a surprise and a resolution of all the clues planted before. Red herrings are delightful, not gratuitous.

For an evening's entertainment—with a social conscience—*Suspect* is playing at the McDonald downtown.

now showing

The Whistle Blower: It's a double-espionage thriller with two of England's finest actors: Sir John Gielgud and Michael Caine, the latter playing a father who gets involved after the murder of his son. Gene Siskel: three stars. Bijou (686-2458).

Year of the Jellyfish: (*L'Annee des Meduses*) With a backdrop along beaches of the French Riviera, Valerie Kaprisky (*Breathless*) stalks her mother's lover. French sex farce. Shows October 30-November 2 at Cinema 7 (687-0733).

CONTINUING/RETURNING

La Bamba: Lou Diamond Phillips and Esai Morales star in this re-creation of the life of Richie Valens, a late-'50s rock star who died in a plane crash at the peak of his career. Los Lobos provides many of the musical numbers. Double feature with *Three O'Clock High* at Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Dirty Dancing: Being compared to *Saturday Night Fever* and *Flashdance*, this musical/romance takes place in 1963 in upstate New York. Young Jennifer Grey falls for older man Patrick Swayze. Movieland (342-4142).

Fatal Attraction: A one-night stand turns into a nightmare for a lawyer (Michael Douglas) and his family. Glenn Close plays the obsessed woman who pursues him. Thriller. Cinema World (342-6536).

Full Metal Jacket: The long-awaited Stanley (2001) Kubrick film, it never lets up revealing the mindlessness and brutality of war, climaxing at the 1968 Tet Offensive of the Vietnam War. Double feature with *Robocop* at Springfield Fine Arts (747-2201).

Like Father, Like Son: Teen-age live wire (Kirk Cameron of TV's *Growing Pains*) and his straight-laced dad (Dudley Moore) accidentally trade brain parts connected to intelligence and personality, but not memory. Confusion reigns. Comedy. Movieland (342-4142) and Springfield Quad (726-9073).

The Lost Boys: A new twist in the annals of vampire stories, it combines rock and roll with terror. With Jamie Gertz, Dianne Wiest and Edward Herrmann. Late-night feature at The Bijou (686-2458).

Matewan: Re-creates an ugly incident in the 1920's in coal country, at Matewan (pronounced mate-one), West Virginia. Striking coal miners clash with their bosses through immigrant and Black scabs. Chris Cooper plays a union organizer, John Slayes (*The Brother From Another Planet*) directs. Valley River Twin (686-8633).

Nightflyers: A future group of humans seeks its extraterrestrial enemy. T.C. Blake directs, based on a George R. Martin book. Movieland (342-4142).

Prince of Darkness: A teacher tricks his graduate science students into a new project: keep the Devil down below. John Carpenter wrote/directed. R. Cinema World (342-6536).

The Princess Pride: Rob Reiner (*Stand By Me*) directed this fantasy based on William Goldman's popular book. True love will out—and villains have punch lines. Cinema World (342-6536).

Robocop: Sci-fi thriller about a cyborg employed to clean up on Detroit lowlife. With Peter Weller, it's graphically violent, satirizes TV newscasts, and is more than comic brought to life. Double feature with *Full Metal Jacket* at Springfield Fine Arts (747-2201).

The Sicilian: A Michael Cimino-directed drama, based on a Mario (*The Godfather*) Puzo novel about a southern Italian folk hero. With Christopher Lambert, Terence Stamp, Barbara Sukowa. Movieland (342-4142).

Siam Dance: Not about dancing. Tom Hulce (Mozart in *Amadeus*), Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and Harry Dean Stanton appear in this film set in a New Wave L.A. underworld. Wayne Wang (*Chan Is Missing*) directs. Movieland (342-4142).

Someone to Watch Over Me: Detective Tom Berenger (*Platoon*) is attracted to a well-to-do woman (Mimi Rogers) who witnesses a murder. Movieland (342-4142).

Stakeout: Emilio Estevez and Richard Dreyfuss are two undercover detectives. Comedy-adventure. Double feature with *Enemy Territory* at Springfield Quad (726-9073).

Surrender: Artist Sally Fields falls for novelist Michael Caine. With Steve Guttenberg and Peter Boyle. Valley River Twin (686-8633).

Suspect: Cher (*Mask*, *Witches of Eastwick*) takes on another leading-lady role. Here she's a D.C. attorney representing a Vietnam vet in a murder case. Dennis Quaid (*The Big Easy*) plays a juror. Suspense. McDonald (344-4343).

Three O'Clock High: Casey Siemaszko plays a kid who sweats out the school day's end, when he has to face a bully. Double feature with *La Bamba* at Springfield Quad (726-9073).

The Untouchables: Robert De Niro, Kevin Costner and Sean Connery revisit the Al Capone era of Chicago in the 1930s. Brian De Palma directs. Late night-feature November 1-5 at the Bijou (686-2458).

Thursday, October 29 is the last showing for: With-nail and I at the Bijou. Good Morning Babylon at Cinema 7. Tickets are already sold for this weekend's Rocky Horror Picture Show late-night screenings at the Bijou. Movie bookings change quickly—call theater to verify listing.

What's Happening Office Hours
 Monday-Friday
9-4