



At the movies

'Hotel' — no room, just boredom

Death, rape, incest, sadism, suicide and emotional trauma. It worked in John Irving's poignant novel, but Tony Richardson's film version of "The Hotel New Hampshire" is the most unsatisfying film released in recent months.

To give credit where it's due, Richardson did leave an enormous amount of the plot intact in his screenplay. The screen adaptation of Irving's previous novel "The World According to Garp" came under criticism for leaving major plot events out.

"Hotel" fails, however, where "Garp" soared — in character treatment. Richardson's overplotted film is so stuffed with death and misery that the characters get caught short. Where "Garp" celebrated the joys of life, "Hotel" sags with the wretchedness of existence.

Jody Foster and Rob Lowe star as Franny and John Berry, siblings who are hopelessly in love with each other in a far-from-innocent sense. At times, the sexual tension between the two is thick enough to cut with a knife, though at other times it seems contrived because of Foster's poor performance.

The rest of the family's problems seem dim in the light of this, but all members have their own hardships. Brother Frank (Paul McCrane) is a self-avowed homosexual in a jock private school; sister Lilly (Jennie Dundas) stopped growing at a few feet and faces life, however brightly, as a dwarf; father Win (Beau Bridges) has a dream to open his hotel, the Hotel New Hampshire. Over a period of years he opens three by that name: two in America and one in Vienna.

Irving's novel presented a bittersweet saga that was tender, moving, sad and funny. Richardson's film is largely turgid and depressing. His quirky attempts to lighten the leaden tone are in-

effectual at best and insulting at worst. The film veers from serious dramatic catastrophe to an inappropriate spastic display of hyperkinetic slapstick — and both styles fail.

The worst aspect of "Hotel," however, is Foster's abysmal performance as Franny. Supposedly the most mature character of the film, Foster portrays Franny as glib and shallow. The depth is lost in her dead delivery and her cynical asides degenerate into smart-aleck remarks.

McCrane livens the film somewhat in his wonderfully energetic performance as Frank, a role without a hint of cliché, and Lowe does the best he can, given his material. The rest of the cast is moderate-to-poor.

Even the music is overbearing and the photography is dim and colorless. With the monotony of tragedy after tragedy broken only by inappropriate slapstick, "Hotel" is a lifeless disappointment.

"The Hotel New Hampshire" is playing at Cinema World near Valley River Center.

Sean Axmaker

Literary supplement delayed until Friday

Due to complications with advertising the Emerald's literary supplement projected for publication May 1 will be delayed until Friday May 4. The literary supplement will also be included in the regularly scheduled Friday Edition.

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SYMPOSIUM

Hungarian Culture and Society
April 20 - May 6,
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Week of April 30 - May 3:

Lecture-demonstration: "Music Education in Hungary"
Prof. Randall Moore (UO School of Music) Monday, April 30, 7:30 p.m., 177 Lawrence.

Slide- and video-lecture: "Two Views of Contemporary Hungarian Folklore: The Village Museum and the Urban Dance Revival"
Profs. Zoltan Fejos and Peter Niedermuller (Hungarian Ethnographic Museum, Budapest) Tuesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m., 177 Lawrence.

Slide-lecture: "The Hungarian Peasant Wedding: Symbol and Structure"
Prof. Mihaly Hoppal (Hungarian Ethnographic Institute, Budapest) Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 p.m., 150 Geology

Panel discussion: "The Study of Folklore in Europe and the United States"
Participants: Hermann Bausinger (Tubingen University), Zoltan Fejos, Peter Niedermuller, Mihaly Hoppal (Hungarian Ethnographic Institute), Sharon Sherman (UO Folklore and Ethnic Studies Program), Carol Silverman (UO Dept. of Anthropology). Thursday, May 3, 7:30 p.m., 177 Lawrence

These events are free and open to the public.
For further information contact:
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