

'Blue Velvet' is flawed, but strangely fascinating

"It's a strange world, isn't it," says young Jeffrey Beaumont to young Sandy Williams. That's not the half of it in David Lynch's "Blue Velvet," a perverse story of sadism, masochism, cruelty and evil existing beneath the surface of Norman Rockwell's America.

Review by
Sean Axmaker

Jeffrey (Kyle MacLachlan) is a college man come back home to sleepy little Lumberton ("the only town that knows how much can a woodchuck chuck," says the local radio station) when his father collapses while watering the lawn. Writer/director Lynch keeps the details vague; we see him collapse, but we're not sure what the cause is — a stroke, a bite, something else entirely. The way Lynch presents it, though, tells us that something evil is afoot.

Jeffrey is introduced to the underbelly of Lumberton as he walks quietly through a vacant lot and finds, lying in the grass, a human ear. Clean-cut Jeff is understandably intrigued and decides to conduct his own investigation, Hardy Boys style.

The daughter of the investigating police detective, Sandy (Laura Dern), provides a few bits of vital information and helps Jeff in his first undercover activity — breaking into the apartment of suspicious

nightclub singer Dorothy Vallens (Isabella Rossellini).

Jeffrey is in for more than he bargained for. Caught by Dorothy and held at knife point, she makes him strip and begins to explore his body until they are interrupted by Frank Booth (Dennis Hopper). Jeffrey watches, horrified but perversely fascinated, as Frank beats and abuses Dorothy. He figures out through their halting verbal exchanges that Frank has kidnapped Dorothy's husband and son and is holding them as a threat to Dorothy. The ear belonged to her husband.

This is merely the beginning of the story, for Jeffrey continues his investigation while continuing to see Dorothy as a secret lover.

All the while he maintains his ties to the ordinary world while managing his father's hardware store and dating high school student Sandy. Jeffrey is still intrigued by the excitement and sexual danger of Dorothy's world and can't quite pull himself out of it, and that is going to get him involved much more than he would ever have guessed.

Lynch has always been more interested in atmosphere than narrative, as easily confirmed by his cult classic "Eraserhead" and his recent mess "Dune." Both of those films have story lines that are ambiguous at best (the story of "Dune" is simply impossible to follow), but the

Continued on Page 13

The Museum of Natural History is Having a Gift Shop Sale... (and prices are slashed to the bone!)

From October 28 through November 8, gift shop prices will be discounted 10 to 30% on special treasures from around the world. But you'd better hurry... At these prices, the selection is sure to become extinct!



The Museum is located on campus in the Science Complex, under the breezeway between science I and II. Open noon to 5:00, Tuesdays through Saturdays.



DON'T GET STEPPED ON!

Find out the FACTS about
FREE LEGAL SERVICES

- FACT** Legal Services handles a wide range of legal problems from Divorces to Landlord Tenant Disputes, FOR FREE!
- FACT** Legal Services staff members are experienced, qualified professionals.
- FACT** Legal services are FREE to U/O students through ASUO except for personal injury claims where there is a FREE consultation and a reduced contingency fee if you choose.

ALSO: The Office of Student Advocacy offers non-legal services including, but not limited to:
Academic and Administration Disputes

Contact Legal Services, EMU, Room 334 (Third floor above the Fish Bowl).
Or call 686-4273 to set up an appointment.

DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS!

CAST YOUR SPELL with

Bat Beat

20 words for just \$2.50.

DEADLINE: 1:00 pm, Thursday, October 30th.

Bat Beats can be placed at the ODE office 300 EMU, EMU Main Desk, or the UO Bookstore.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ART # _____

MESSAGE: _____

For an added touch, try our special Halloween Art - published in autumn orange. **BAT BEAT ART IS ONLY \$1!**



Place your order today!

686-4343

OREGON DAILY EMERALD CLASSIFIEDS