

'Sincerely Charlotte' sure to please casual moviegoer

"Sincerely Charlotte" is standard French film product — stylish, upbeat and breezy (much like standard American film product). A vehicle for Isabelle Huppert, it marks the feature film debut of her sister, co-writer / director Caroline Huppert, and as such it is entertaining if somewhat lightweight.

Isabelle plays Charlotte, an attractive young Parisian woman

Review by
Sean Axmaker

living with a writer of popular crime stories. The credits open with her debut as a chanteuse (she holds her own with the song, but just barely), but she is depressed because her lover has not come to see her. That night she finds him murdered and she is the chief suspect.

Niels Arestrup plays Mathieu, Charlotte's lover of many years ago. Though Mathieu has settled down with wife-to-be Christine (Christine Pascal) and her young son, Charlotte turns to him for help. At first Charlotte is an intrusion, albeit a welcome one since his torch still burns for her, but after sheltering her in his bungalow for a night and after she steals the family car to escape, he can't get her out of his mind.

Once more the telephone rings. Charlotte is in trouble. She wants to cross the border into Spain and she needs money. Mathieu leaves and Christine bears it all stoically.

We've seen this romantic triangle before. Christine loves Mathieu, Mathieu loves Charlotte, and Charlotte needs help and is willing to use Mathieu's affection to help her escape. That isn't to say she's the bad guy of the situation. A quick thinker and a survivor, Charlotte is the one we like to identify with, while we feel for poor Mathieu who's only headed for another fall and poor Christine, who loves Mathieu too much to kick him loose. Poor, suffering romantic people.

Caroline Huppert brings a modicum of panache to the familiar tale. Like almost all French features, "Charlotte" is shot on a budget that wouldn't feed the technical crew on a Spielberg picture for a week, and like most French directors, Huppert doesn't let this handicap her work. Location shooting, simple but attractive sets and a long take shooting style gives the film an identity without advertising its budget.

It is the actress Huppert, however, who brings the amiability to the film. Arestrup and Pascal are fine as the suffering couple, but their direct "niceness" is simply not as interesting as Huppert's more ambiguous but daring character. We're not even sure if she's innocent of the crime, but her vitality and quick-wittedness are enough to get most people rooting for her.

Perhaps that is what Mathieu sees in Charlotte and what

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'Soul Man' aimless excursion

"Mark Watson is going to Harvard Law School on a scholarship. The scholarship is for a black applicant from Los Angeles. There's a problem . . . Mark is white."

The aforementioned quotes are borrowed from the advertising teaser of the newly released movie, "Soul Man", starring C. Thomas Howell ("The Hitcher") and Rae Dawn Chong ("Quest for Fire").

Review by
Kevin Long

These quotes summarize a somewhat dilapidated storyline, aimlessly interwoven with underdeveloped subplots that, although very funny sometimes, combine to outweigh the impact of the main story. Nevertheless, "Soul Man" does have its fine moments, particularly its sticky circumstances, which generate many hilarious scenes.

The story begins when Mark Watson (C. Thomas Howell) receives a letter of acceptance from the Harvard School of Law. Upon the arrival of this good news, however, a problem arises. In a discussion with his father

(James Sikking, "Hill Street Blues"), Mark finds out that he, not his father, will have to pay for his own educational expenses.

Mark is understandably panic-stricken at first, and close to comatose, when he finds out that the cost of his proposed endeavors will exceed \$50,000.

Without much hope, Mark sets out to explore his options and seems to have exhausted them all. But, while flipping through a directory for financial aid, he suddenly spots an opportunity: a scholarship for a black applicant from Los Angeles.

Posing as a black, with the help of tanning pills and a permanent wave, Mark wins the scholarship and is ready for Harvard.

Once there, and still in disguise, he meets a young black woman (Rae Dawn Chong). They share a class together and gradually become friends. As time passes by, their relationship grows and eventually Mark learns of the hardships she faces as a self-supported single mother. Later, he finds out that she would have received his scholarship had he not falsely applied earlier.

Feeling more and more guilty about his

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Feminist singer to appear tonight



Hunter Davis

Feminist folk and blues singer Hunter Davis will make her first Eugene appearance tonight at the University.

Davis, who combines folk, rhythm and blues, and jazz to come up with her own unique sound, began her musical career at age five. Teaching herself to play the ukelele and guitar, she continued playing, singing, and writing through college, when she released her first album.

Davis released "The Horse Show at Midnight" in 1977, followed by "Girl's Best Friend" in 1982. Her most recent release, "Harmony," is a combination of blues and love songs, and contains lyrics reflecting some of the most important things in her life: love, friends, and relationships.

Davis, who grew up in North Carolina, uses her music to express her background, playing and performing in a simple and direct style influenced by musicians such as James, Kate, and Livingston Taylor.

At the age of 30, Davis' list of credits includes performances with Harry Chapin, George Winston, Holly Near, Julie Homi, and Alix Dobkin. Davis has played in clubs and coffeehouses in New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Boston, and Chicago, and at numerous women's music festivals around the country.

Currently living in the San Francisco Bay area, Davis will stop in Eugene as part of her tour. She will appear in the Gumwood Room (adjacent to the Ballroom) in the Erb Memorial Union. Tickets are available at Mother Kali's Books, 1070 Lawrence Ave., and the EMU Main Desk. Tickets are \$6.00.

ISLAM & WOMEN'S LIBERATION

BY:
MRS. AMINA ASSIMIMI

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