

At the movies

'Dead of Winter' startles minds

"Don't get into cars with strangers." That's something most of us hear from our mothers when we are four years old. It's good advice. But what's

a poor, struggling actress to do? Take chances, kiss up to producers and their aides; it's all part of getting a movie role. Or is it?

"Dead of Winter" is a new thriller directed by Richard Penn that reveals how the desperation of hungry actors makes them vulnerable to unscrupulous manipulation, and the dangers risk-taking.

Katie (Mary Steenburgen) is overjoyed when a cattle-call audition results in a job offer from the distinguished and

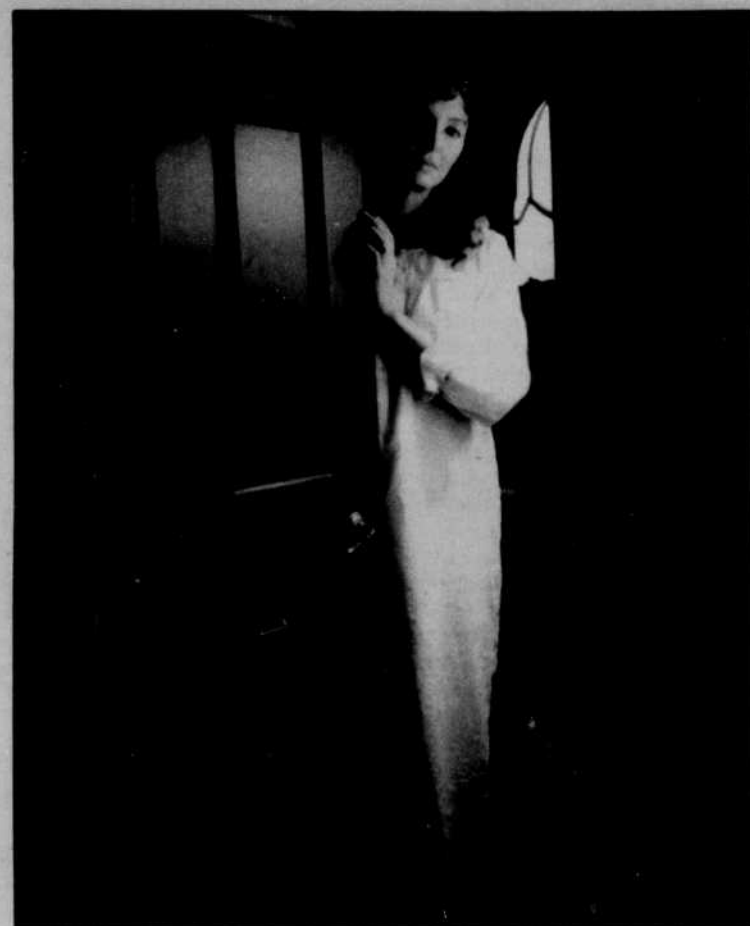
Review by
Mary Courtis

somewhat over-solicitous Mr. Murray (Roddy McDowall). He assures Katie that she is perfect for the part, but the producer wants to film a scene over the weekend to show the director on Monday. Katie wants the role. So she goes along with the agent's suggestion and finds herself snowbound in upstate New York with Murray and the producer.

But her desire to impress the producer and lock up the acting job causes her to ignore or explain away her suspicions. By the time she realizes she is in danger, it is too late. She is trapped in a psychological game of cat-and-mouse in which she is the prime pawn and there seems to be no escape.

The violence is mostly alluded to, and the plot revolves more around psychological twists and turns than tallying up dead bodies. Steenburgen is a talented and versatile actress, and she shows it again here.

Her Katie is a real and



Courtesy photo

Mary Steenburgen stars in "Dead of Winter."

resourceful person with intelligence and ingenuity, in contrast to the shrieking, hysterical heroine audiences are usually saddled with. In almost every instance she reacts as a genuine person to the terrors she encounters and in ways the audience can understand and admire.

McDowell is also good as the simpering and ultimately sinister Mr. Murray, capable of

scaring us to the bone with just a smile or a meekly offered cup of hot chocolate. His portrayal reminds us that passive people are often not as harmless as they seem.

"Dead of Winter" plays nightly at the Fred Meyer Tri-West Entertainment Center.

Be prepared for some lingering chills when you leave the theater!

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'Summer' looks honest as a diary

"I'm all mixed up," admits Delphine (Marie Riviere) as she readjusts to her new vacation plans, but the cards (literally) are against her. She just broke

Review by
Sean Axmaker

up with her boyfriend, and then her expected traveling companion cancelled out (for a boyfriend). Realizing she'll have to vacation alone,

Delphine finds herself lonely and depressed.

Eric Rohmer's "Summer" is an odd but enchanting story of a young, single, very insecure French woman trying (not particularly hard) to make the best of a bad summer.

Delphine has definite ideas on how to spend the holidays. She wants an untroubled little vacation in a sunny spot with a close friend.

A short trip to a friend's vacation house proves to be a bad experience when Delphine finds

herself unable to (or not wanting to) fit in with the rather active family. An even shorter trip alone to her ex-boyfriend's mountain cabin ends before it begins.

Delphine isn't simply a whiny pouting child. Her insecurity is quite evident, even among her friends who constantly push her to try new experiences. She comes across as honest and sincere, particularly in her most comfortable moments, and is genuinely un-

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