

ENTERTAINMENT

'Someone to Watch Over Me' is worth a look

By Craig Hoit
Emerald Contributor

The ad for this film reads "He's a streetwise cop who just made detective. She's a stunning sophisticate who just saw a murder. A killer is the only thing they had in common. Until tonight."

The advertising copy for "Someone to Watch Over Me" tends to leave one wondering as to what will happen in this "...classic thriller with a twist of romance." Gosh, I wonder what else the streetwise cop and the stunning sophisticate will have in common other than a killer? Stop. This was a good film. What is it that makes a cliched plot an entertaining and exciting movie experience? In "Someone to Watch Over Me" we find some of the answers to that question.

Movie Review

★ ★ ★

Director Ridley Scott is one of Hollywood's premier film stylists. Many remember his "Blade Runner" for its dramatic visual quality, and in "Someone to Watch Over Me" we again find a very textured and rich use of lighting, setting and camera work. The cinematographer, Steven Poster, has provided Scott with the ability to make a film in which the image itself influences the meaning of the text.

The viewer is put on edge as characters move through a frame that is constantly in flux — colors and perspectives that change with every cut.

Mike Keegan (Tom Berenger, "Platoon"), a New York cop recently promoted to detective, is introduced to us with his wife Ellie (Lorraine Bracco) at a party in their Queens home as they celebrate his promotion with other detectives. Cut to a second, very different party. Clair Gregory (Mimi Rogers) arrives at a posh New York club and takes the elevator to the bottom floor to "look at some art."



Courtesy Photo

Tom Berenger, a married New York detective, falls for elegant Upper East Side witness Mimi Rogers in the romantic thriller "Someone to Watch Over Me." The movie opens Friday at Movieland.

Instead, she witnesses Joey Venza (Andreas Katsulas) committing a grisly murder. Venza, of course, notices Claire, whom he pursues with sadistic pleasure. Mike is assigned the task of protecting Claire.

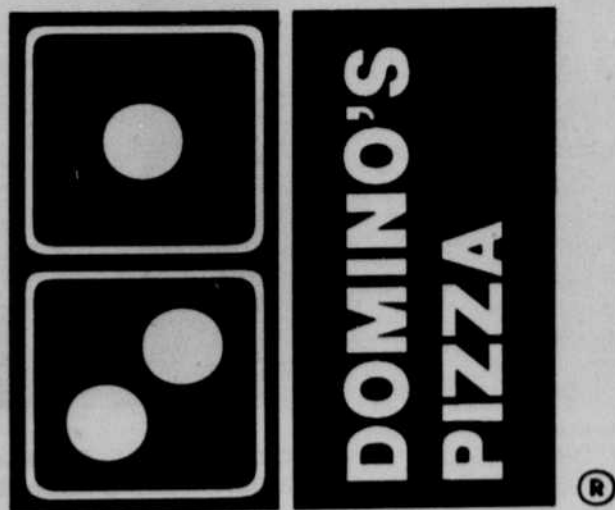
The explication of their relationship against the backdrop of Mike's marriage to Ellie forms the primary narrative and explores the film's theme of an individual who cannot choose between two equally appealing options.

I use the word "options" over the more obvious word "women" because his choice involves social and political considerations. The issue of class is raised in this film, which is a refreshing departure, since most

traditional narratives tend to follow ideological dictates which deny that class differences exist in the United States. (However, the resolution of Mike's dilemma is in keeping with the message Hollywood has given us for years regarding class relationships.)

"Someone to Watch Over Me" is a film that rises above its limited screenplay and traditional moralizing to form an exciting and entertaining two hours of cinema. Ridley Scott and his crew work magic as they prove that a film can be more than the story behind it.

"Someone to Watch Over Me," rated R, is scheduled to start Friday at Movieland.



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