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INNOCENCE

Continued from Page 9

(Michelle Pfeiffer) and May Welland (Winona Ryder) are brilliantly acted by Scorcsese's cast.

Archer and Welland are an engaged couple living in the social constraints of the 1870s, very happily. Welland's cousin, Countess Olenska, returns to 1870s New York after a failed marriage abroad. She is shunned by her family and those she remembered as friends because of her free spirited way of life. After living in Europe, she does not adhere to the same social customs as her family living in New York. At first Archer pities her and, as time progresses he is excited by her. The Countess gives Archer his first glimpse into a life without social constraints.

Archer's struggle between his desire for the Countess and his duty to his fiance is painful to watch. The chemistry between Lewis and Pfeiffer is so obvious that the audience shares in their sexual tension. The utter lack of sexual chemistry between Lewis and Ryder is also apparent, but accommodates the story well.

No M-16 wielding godfather's will be found in this film Scorcsese's actors are surrounded by images of beauty from the clothes they wear to the food they eat. The delicacy and precision with which the sets were created are incredible feats in the world of film. Audiences are accustomed to seeing scenery of this scale in movies about England or France, but not usually in movies that are about America. The grand scale of the sets is very similar to the sets in movies such as *A Room With a View* and *Howards End* which were directed by James Ivory. Scorsese succeeds in capturing the importance of appearance, the element which defines the film, and the period in which it takes place.

The film runs for more than two hours, and is at times slow. However, a shorter film would not have been able to convey Archer's drawn-out pain from having to endure a life without the Countess.

The Age of Innocence is an excellent film filled with fine actors and superb direction, it could very well garner Scorcsese an Academy Award.

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GOOD SON

★★

STARRING: Macaulay Culkin, Elijah Wood
DIRECTOR: Joseph Rubens
RATING: R
RUNNING TIME: 145 minutes
PLAYING AT: Cinama World

By Kaly Soto
Oregon Daily Emerald

Macaulay Culkin must have been extremely fed up with his goody-two-shoes image cultivated by his appearance as the lovable, but mischievous Kevin McAllister in *Home Alone*.

To reverse this image Caulkin chose to take the role of Henry Evans in 20th Century Fox's *The Good Son*. By choosing this role, Culkin shows his versatility as an actor, but the script and the plot are weak.

Don't be fooled. Just because this stars two children does not mean it is a movie for children. If you have children who are fans of Culkin or Elijah Wood you would be better off renting old videos such as *Home Alone* or *Forever Young*, which are less violent.

As the movie opens the audience is introduced to Henry's cousin Mark Evans (Elijah Wood). Mark's mother is dying of cancer, and immediately after her death Mark is shipped off to stay with his uncle, Mark's father.

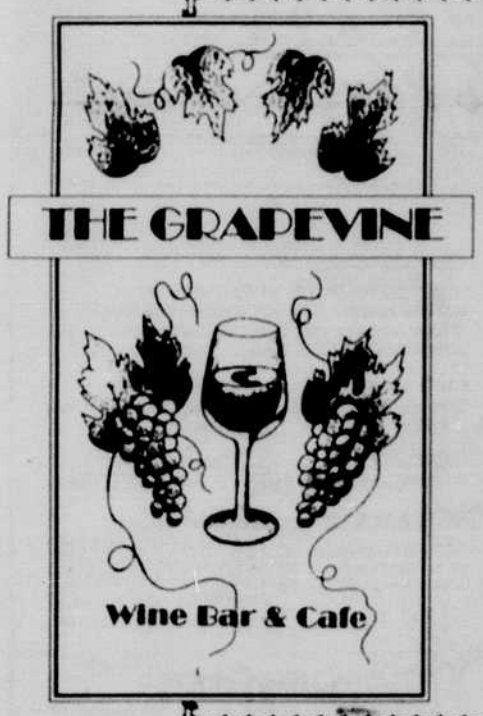
Mark is convinced that Henry's mother is his mother reincarnated and develops a strong bond with her. Unfortunately, he also bonds with Henry, a dangerous mistake.

Henry is the eldest of the three children in his family. His younger brother, Richard, drowned in a bathtub accident, or was it an accident?

The bond of loss binds Mark and his aunt (Wendy Crewson), and as they get closer Henry's behavior becomes more erratic. Mark is the only one who has actually witnessed Henry's dark mode. As Henry's actions turn criminal he begins to blame them on Mark.

Elijah Wood turns in a stellar performance as Mark Evans. His ability to express emotion on screen, give him an edge that is missing in many child actors.

His character takes the perceptions of a child and analyzes them as an adult would, and at one point he asks his therapist if she believes in evil. She tells him that "evil is a word we use when we stop trying to understand." As she tries to explain the merits of reason and logic Mark asks, "What if there isn't a reason, something just is ?" He is speaking of Henry's evil, but in answer to this question sometimes there isn't a reason as is the case of The Good Son the movie is just plain bad.



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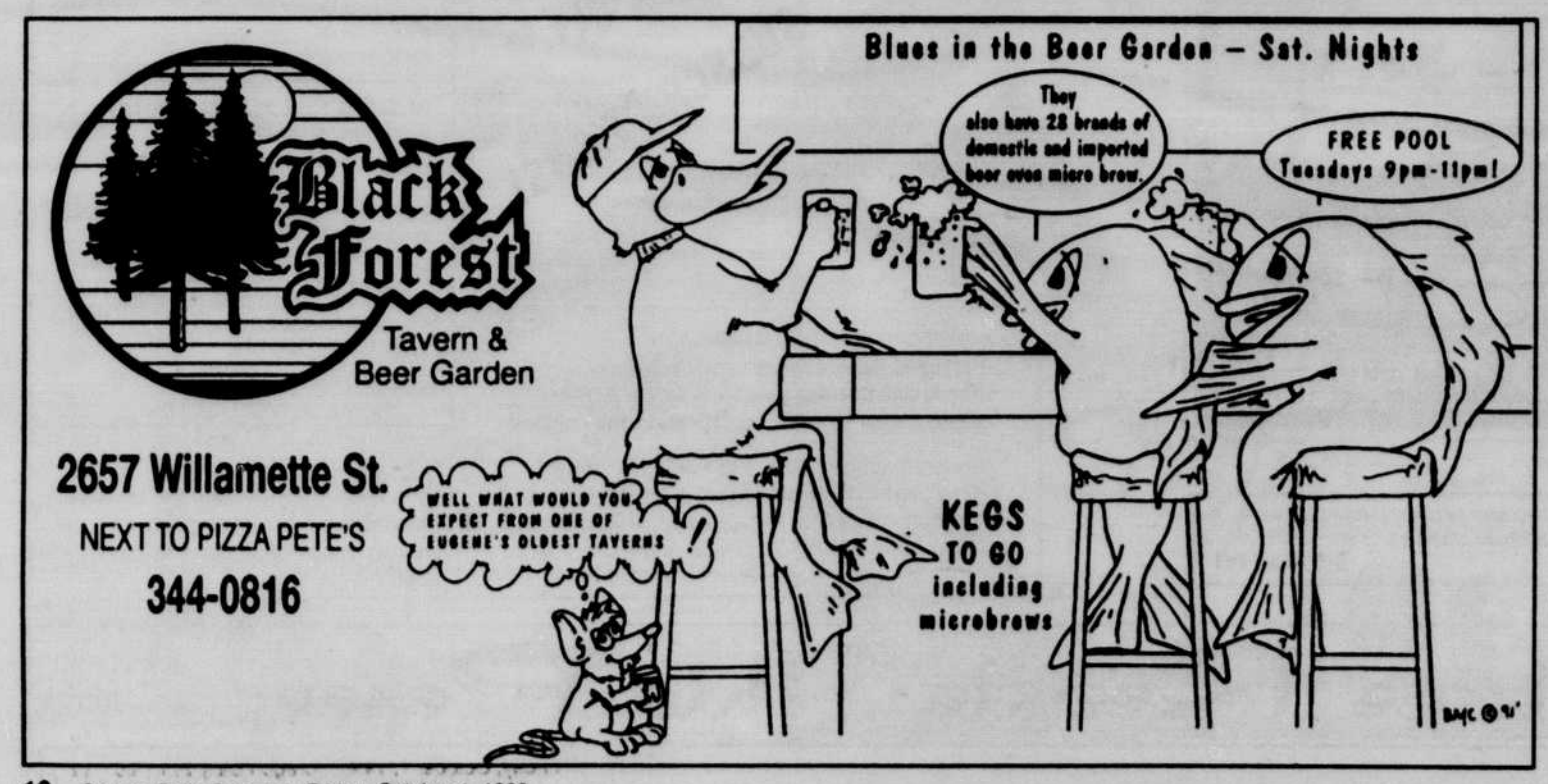
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