

"Falling in Love" rekindles fire

Holiday theme hits romantic spot

By D. Dietrich
Of The Print

One would expect a powerful drama from the pairing of such box office sensations as Meryl Streep and Robert DeNiro. "Falling in Love," currently at the Music Box Theater, is not a larger-than-life love story but rather the extended play of what many people may fantasize after any brief encounter.

Streep and DeNiro last worked together in "Deer Hunter" and began an attraction that has seemingly kept an intensity through the years. These two Academy Award winners have a natural rapport which works well on-screen, aided by a striking backdrop of New York City to enhance the view.

Streep and DeNiro both play upper-middle class people married to very nice spouses whom no one wants to hurt (of course). They meet on Christmas Eve but at first it's nothing more than a small contretemp. They don't actually notice each other until three months later during a series of chance encounters as they commute by train.

Neither one is particularly unhappy in their marriage and in fact their spouses are quite successful in their own right. Streep plays Molly

Gilmore, a part-time commercial artist who lives in the country with her doctor husband (David Clennon). DeNiro is Frank Raftis, an architectural engineer who is married to Ann (Jane Kaczmarek), a published authoress.

The affair takes time in gaining momentum and is primarily filled with a lot of uncomfortable conversations and nervous mannerisms. At times one wonders why they bother because the awkwardness is so extreme but the chemistry is there and they can't get over the adolescent thrill they get from seeing each other, a thrill that is no longer or never was in their marriages.

What makes the film easy to relate to also keeps it from becoming an obvious character study. The dialogue that the two share doesn't concern war and peace but rather simple things that make each other happy or sad.

Neither one is fighting for a cause and more is said over the phone with a couple of well-inflected "yes's" than in most monologues.

Throughout their affair, both have trusted friends to whom they extoll the virtues of each other. But since the affair is only on an emotional level and not of a physical nature, there really isn't much to tell and each one ends up looking a little silly.

Up until the time her father is failing, Streep plays her role fairly cool but when the pressure is on, she finds herself more in need of the strength she gets from DeNiro and the ball is set in motion for a full-blown affair. While Streep's husband is oblivious to any problems, DeNiro's wife isn't, and gives a brief but outstanding reaction in an "Oh my God, there's another woman," scene.

To complicate matters, DeNiro has been offered a great job in Houston and after much debate he takes it, moving far from the temptation of calling Streep. Of course this can't be an easy end to the "meant-to-be affair" but it does put it on hold for a while.

Directed by Ulu Grosbard (True Confessions), "Falling in Love" is a quiet and tasteful film. The photography takes the audience through the seasons in New York beginning and ending with the holiday spirit.

Dave Grusin's contemporary jazz fills the background with lulling piano riffs and adapts nicely through the film.

There probably aren't any Oscars awaiting this film but the acting is appropriately understated and creative. "Falling in Love" is a satisfying film but definitely for the romantic type. A perfect film for the holiday season.

Opening night party set

A new location has been chosen for the after-play party on opening night of Clackamas Community College's production of Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor." While last year's gala was staged at the now closed Harry's Mustache, the latest festivities will be held at The Chopping Block in Oregon City.

The party will be a no-host affair but includes an autograph game in which participants are given a list of statements and must match up autographs with the statements. Prizes for the game include two free dinners at The Chopping Block. The restaurant also features a

piano bar and dance floor.

Admittance into the party requires ticket stubs from the play. Opening night is November 29 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$3 general, \$2 students and seniors free with reservations. Tickets are available at the box office or can be reserved by calling ext. 356.

Artists show social commentary

"The Girl Artists," a five-member group of female performers, will present a slide show and demonstration of their work this evening at 7 pm in the Small Dining room in the Community Center. Admission is free.

Char Breshgold, Kathy Clark, Christina DeGennaro, Susan Martin and Lisa Siegel, all Pacific Northwest natives,

make up the group that performs "social commentary" skits. Their work is somewhat comparable to the Waitresses of Los Angeles.

The performance is sponsored by the Clackamas Community College Humanities and Social Sciences departments and is part of the Oregon Sampler series. For more information call 657-8400, ext. 454.



Jim Nicodemus and Neil Hass star in "The Sneeze," one of twelve vignettes in Neil

Simons, "The Good Doctor."

Photo by Joel Miller

The Good Doctor

By Neil Simon

directed by Jack Shields

November 29, 30, &
December 1, 7, 8, at 8 pm
December 9 at 2:30 pm

McLoughlin Theatre

General Admission: \$3

Students: \$2

Seniors: Free with reservations

Call 657-8400, ext. 356 or 283

Reservations recommended