

ACTIVIST TERRY FAGAN (DARRAGH KELLY, LEFT) TAKES JOURNALIST VERONICA GUERIN (CATE BLANCHETT, RIGHT) ON A GRIM TOUR OF DUBLIN'S STREETS, WHICH HAVE NOW BECOME A WAR ZONE OF POWERFUL DRUG LORDS BATTLING FOR CONTROL.



Citizen Journalist

Crusader for the Public Good

VERONICA GUERIN: Directed by Joel Schumacher. Written by Carol Doyle and Mary Agnes Donoghue, from story by Carol Doyle. Produced by Jerry Bruckheimer. Executive producers Chad Oman, Mike Stenson, Ned Dowd. Cinematography, Brendan Galvin. Production design, Nathan Crowley. Editor, David Gamble. Costume design, Joan Bergin. Music composer, Harry Gregson-Williams. Starring Cate Blanchett, with Gerard McSorley, Ciaran Hinds, Brenda Fricker, Don Wycherley, Barry Barnes, Simon O'Driscoll. Touchstone Pictures, 2003. R. 98 minutes.

Veronica Guerin (Cate Blanchett) was a Dublin investigative reporter for Ireland's best-selling weekly news tabloid, the *Sunday Independent*. She wanted to cover stories about the community that would make a difference, so she came to write about crime and drugs. Guerin cultivated sources among the city's young adults who were strung out on heroin in increasing numbers.

For fear of reprisal, her best contact, low-life criminal John Traynor (Ciaran Hinds), wouldn't give Guerin the name of the mastermind laundering tons of money and bringing H into the city. But Guerin finds him, anyway — John Gilligan (Gerard McSorley), a cruel, ruthless and bloodless enemy with everything to lose if his name came up in connection with drugs. The reporter herself becomes the target, and Gilligan plays hardball.

On the saner side of her life, Guerin is married and has a child. Her husband, Graham Turley (Barry Barnes), and son, Cathal (Simon O'Driscoll), want her attention when she's home. But most nights she sits at her desk in front of her computer, studying public documents, police photos, interview notes, books, magazines and newspaper clippings, always looking for the one clue that will lead her to Dublin's drug kingpin. Her supportive mother, Bernie Guerin (Brenda Fricker), counsels Veronica to give up the hunt. "Sometimes it's braver to walk away," she says.

Direct threats are made on Veronica's life and that of her family. But this plucky, determined woman believes her visibility in the press will keep her safe.

Guerin's story has been told in film before: *When the Sky Falls*, 2000, was directed by John MacKenzie and starred Joan Allen. U.K. reviewers were under-

whelmed, and the film was not theatrically released in this country.

Critics mention *Veronica Guerin's* intrinsic mainstream appeal, its Hollywood gloss, as if the movie would have been truer to this courageous journalist if shot by a hand-held camera on a super-low budget. Director Joel Schumacher and producer Jerry Bruckheimer make commercial films, but they took this one to the streets and shot it with two cameras in about 90 Dublin locations. I'm not complaining. The specificity of setting grounds the film in a place, which makes the story less novelistic and more realistic.

Blanchett plays this upbeat, energetic woman with verve, but she also shows us the frightened woman inside the strong outer figure Guerin felt she had to be. Guerin was the real thing. She actually went into hard-core drug scenes and interviewed people. She really went to the homes of known drug lords and asked them if they were bringing heroin into the city. She attended funerals with the police, who took pictures of gangland heroes.

Incidentally, I agree with critic A.O. Scott of *The New York Times*, who wrote that "you expect a movie like this to sacrifice a measure of nuance to be appropriately rousing and emphatic." But I disagree that the film makes Guerin's story "as phony as mediocre television."

If Guerin had been a man, I doubt anyone would have dismissed his abilities by writing about him this way. We have so few women heroes; let us honor them when they come our way. Maybe I'm still stupefied by the useless trash that clogged the multiplexes from April until day-before-yesterday, but I found *Veronica Guerin* memorable for its hard-headed determination to show how the corruptive influence of hard drugs destroys lives, cities and civilization.

Here's the bad news. Cinemark is showing *Veronica Guerin* only through Friday night. This serious film has to make way for Disney's *Brother Bear* on Saturday. That's the world we live in. *VG* is heartily recommended. See it in the short time you have left.



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BROTHER BEAR* G (STARTS SAT) 11:55, 12:30, 2:20, 2:55, 4:45, 5:20, 7:10, 7:45, 9:35, 10:15	KILL BILL: VOLUME ONE R 1:20, [3:35], 4:15, 7:35, [9:35], 10:25
IN THE CUT* R 12:35, 3:40, 7:15, 10:15	GOOD BOY! PG 12:15, 2:45, 5:00
BEYOND BORDERS* R 7:20, 10:35	INTOLERABLE CRUELTY PG13 1:50, 4:25, (7:30), 10:05
SCARY MOVIE 3* PG13 12:00, 1:40, 2:10, 2:40, 4:05, 4:35, 5:05, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 9:25, 9:55, 10:25	LOVE ACTUALLY R 7:30 SAT SNEAK ONLY
RADIO* PG 12:55, 1:45, 3:45, 4:30, 7:10, 7:45, 9:55, 10:30	SCHOOL OF ROCK PG13 1:00, 3:50, 7:15, 9:50
RUNAWAY JURY* PG13 12:10, [12:45], 3:30, [3:55], 7:05, [7:40], 10:10, [10:40]	UNDERWORLD R 10:10 FRI SAT ONLY
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE* R 1:30, 2:00, 4:00, 4:40, 7:10, 7:50, 9:45, 10:30	UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN PG13 1:05, 4:10, 7:05, [10:10]
MYSTIC RIVER* R 12:05, 3:25, 7:00, 10:20	VERONICA GUERIN R [12:50, 6:55]

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CABIN FEVER R 12:05, 2:35, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40	OPEN RANGE R [12:10], 3:40, 6:55, 10:10
GOLD CREEK MANOR R 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35	SWAT PG-13 [11:25], 2:10, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30
FINDING NEMO G [11:30], [12:00], 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00	SEABISCUIT PG-13 [12:15], 3:35, 6:50, 9:55
HOUSE OF THE DEAD R 11:55, 5:10, 10:05	SECONDHAND LIONS PG 11:45, 2:25, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15
LARA CROFT TOMB RAIDER PG13 [11:20], 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25	THE RUNDOWN PG13 [11:35], 2:05, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50

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SCARY MOVIE 3 (PG-13) DIG ✓ Fri. (235 505) 740 1005
Sat. & Sun. (1210 235 505) 740 1005
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"The film presents a realistic and artful treatment of a subject not often dealt with in cinema -- and rarely with honesty. Davis and Scott respond with heartfelt, edgy performances."
- Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

From acclaimed director Alan Rudolph (*Afterglow*, *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle*)
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The Secret Lives of Dentists
5:00 & 7:20 Nightly SUN MAT 2:45 [R]

THE WEATHER UNDERGROUND
"This terrifically smart solid piece of filmmaking the former Weathermen, in their 50's and older, see into the camera and reveal a bit of their personal history as well as what the movement meant to them."
- Elvis Mitchell, NEW YORK TIMES
7:20 & 9:20 Nightly SAT & SUN MAT 3:10 [NR]

"What Leone did for cowboys and crime, *Once Upon a Time in the Midlands* does for a more contemporary genre."
- Terry Lawson, DETROIT FREE PRESS
ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE MIDLANDS
5:10 Nightly ONE WEEK ONLY!
SOON: THE ANIMATION SHOW WITH NEW ANIMATION BY BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEADS' MIKE JUDGE [R]

American Splendor
9:35 Nightly SAT MAT 2:55
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*RADIO - PG (1:30) 4:15 6:45 9:10
*TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE - R (2:20) 4:45 7:00 9:20
STARTS SATURDAY, 11/1:
DISNEY'S BROTHER BEAR - G (12:10 2:20) 4:30 6:35 8:40
STARTS WEDNESDAY, 11/5:
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - G

ROSEBURG CINEMA 7 1750 NW Hughwood • 673-6604

*LUTHER - PG-13 (1:00) 3:30 6:00 8:30
*LOST IN TRANSLATION - R (2:00) 4:40 7:00 9:20
*SCARY MOVIE 3 - PG-13 (1:10) 3:20 5:20 7:25 9:30
*BEYOND BORDERS - R 9:00
RUNAWAY JURY - PG-13 (12:55) 3:50 6:30 9:10
MYSTIC RIVER - R (2:10) 5:10 8:20
INTOLERABLE CRUELTY - PG-13 4:10
GOOD BOY - PG (2:20) 4:30 6:40
UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN - PG-13 (1:40) 6:20
SCHOOL OF ROCK - PG-13 (1:20) 3:40 6:10 8:40
UNDERWORLD - R 8:50
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