

Rohmer disappoints on all counts

French Summer wanderings aimless and dull

review by Blair Ratsoy

"To err is human. To loaf is Parisian," wrote Victor Hugo. Anyone interested in seeing Hugo's point proved need only attend the new French film *Summer*, which features as its heroine a Parisian secretary, Delphine, who is probably the most adamant loafer ever seen on the movie screen. Delphine's lofing begins in the first few minutes of the film, after her summer vacation plans are unexpectedly upset, and continues straight through the rest of the picture. She loafs in Paris, in Cherbourg, in the French Alps, and in Biarritz. In her month and a half of vacation time Delphine does more loafing than the average bread baker does in a lifetime.

Why does Delphine loaf? In part because she has been dumped by her fiance, but the main problem seems to be some sort of life crisis which has rendered her incapable of doing anything except wandering aimlessly about while waiting for something to happen. Were she an engrossing and complex character, Delphine's wanderings and angst might be of some interest; unfortunately she is written and portrayed as such a self-pitying flake that she quickly becomes an irritating bore.

Whenever someone suggests to Delphine that she do something to improve her situation, she invariably shrugs off the suggestion

(like when her sister asks her to come to Dublin), offers a pathetic excuse ("What if it rains?" she exclaims when advised to go camping), or gets angry (like when her friend Beatrice tells her to get her act together.) When her hostess at Cherbourg attempts to cheer up Delphine with a bouquet of wild flowers, the response is a whiny lecture on the evils of destroying nature. When the same hostess serves pork chops, Delphine refuses to eat them and then proceeds to offer an unintentionally hilarious defense of her vegetarianism ("Lettuce is a friend," she explains.) Incidents such as these thoroughly undermined the sympathy I initially felt for Delphine.

Another problem is the ridiculous layer of supernatural bunk which the writer-director Eric Rohmer imposes on Delphine's story. Ominous playing cards, a black cat, and references to astrology and spirits are all awkwardly evident, and are usually accompanied by sudden and annoying eruptions of loud music. In the second half of the film Rohmer attempts to develop as a symbol of hope for his hopeless heroine the "green ray" effect occasionally produced by the setting sun, but this is done so tritely that it has little impact.

Besides the awfulness of the script (which was written by Rohmer and Marie Riviere,

the actress who plays Delphine), the film is plagued with substandard photography (shot in 16 mm and then enlarged) and an uneven cast (most of the roles are acted by non-professionals, some of whom are breezily

unaffected in front of the camera, others of whom are hammy and painfully amateurish.) *Summer* is a major disappointment, if not embarrassment, from a director of Rohmer's reputation.

It's a long Winter

Dead of Winter
Westmount

review by Roberta Franchuk

It takes a delicate touch to direct a suspense thriller. Too little direction and the effect isn't there. Too much and it becomes predictable — or worse, laughable.

Dead of Winter tries hard, but it just misses that elusive target. It isn't the fault of the actors, Mary Steenbergen carries her heroine-in-distress role off well, Roddy McDowell makes a wonderful manservant/psychotic, and Jan Rubes as the villain is made to order. The trouble is that their roles are so predictable that it isn't until the end of the movie that the true abilities of these actors are revealed. By then, of course, the impact is lost.

Much of the trouble lies with the plot. This is a basic "heroine trapped in lonely mansion

during snowstorm" movie, with a little mistaken identity thrown in. The outcome, to anyone who has watched any number of thrillers, is never much in doubt.

The sad part is that there is a lot of potential lurking beneath the surface. The actors were never allowed to expand their roles, and the cinematography is excellent but does little for the suspense. The wonderful 'film Noir' scenes in the first ten minutes lead us to expect more than we got, and the unusual camera angles are wasted when we all know what's under the blanket.

Basically, the suspense in this movie isn't present. One is reminded of a bowstring being drawn tighter and tighter, but released halfway so its power is dissipated.

Not a bad flick to take somebody who is fairly high strung. Not too much gore, lots of bodies, and only two rats.

The Friends of CJSR 88.5 FM present their
3rd Annual BIRTHDAY BASH
with
DAVID LINDLEY & EL RAYO-X
plus guests IBS
FRIDAY FEB. 27
8:30 p.m.

Tickets:
Jubilee Box Office
Varsity Drugs
HUB & SUB Info Booths
& CJSR (432-5244)
NO MINORS — Age I.D. Required

DINWOODIE LOUNGE
SUB - 2nd Floor
New Hours: 8:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

"Mercury Blues" hitmaker and sideman to Jackson Browne. By Cooper, Graham Nash, Linda Ronstadt, James Taylor, Rod Stewart.

AND JOHN CRIPTON & MARIO LABBÉ PRESENT

THE RED ARMY
CHORUS AND DANCE ENSEMBLE
1987 CANADA TOUR
First North American Tour in 14 years

A COMPANY OF 200 SINGERS, MUSICIANS & DANCERS FROM THE RED ARMY

Tuesday, March 3
8:00 p.m.
NORTHLANDS COLISEUM
Tickets: \$18.50 adults, \$9.50 children (16 & under) & seniors.

Available at all BASS outlets or call 451-8000 to charge. **ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY**

"EDMONTON'S MOST UNUSUAL & EXCITING"
NIGHT CLUB

BOOKS PARTIES for all OCCASIONS

GOOSE LOUNGE
PARTY AND PLAYHOUSE

438-5573
Redeem this coupon for **TWO FREE ADMISSIONS**

WRITING COMPETENCE PETITIONS: NOTICE TO STUDENTS

This notice is intended for students who have not met the University's writing competence requirement and whose deadline for meeting that requirement occurs on or before September 1, 1987. Students who do not pass the writing competence test by their deadline will have their registrations cancelled prior to the start of classes unless granted an extension by the GFC Writing Competence Petitions Committee (WCPC).

If your deadline is **May 1 or July 1** and you plan to register in the Spring term or in a subsequent session, you may petition or re-petition the WCPC for permission to continue your registration, provided that you are currently registered and have written the writing competence test at least once.

If your deadline is **September 1** and you plan to register in the Fall term or in a subsequent session, you have the option of petitioning the WCPC either in March or in July provided that you are currently registered and have written the writing competence test at least once. Students with a September 1 deadline who will be out of the city July 28-31 may wish to consider submitting a petition in March. Students in this category should first consult the student advisers or student ombudsmen.

Students are urged to seek advice on preparing their writing competence petitions. Such advice can be sought from the Student Ombudsmen, Room 272 Students' Union Building, or the Student Advisers in the Office of the Dean of Student Services, Room 300, Athabasca Hall. The regulations and procedures used by the GFC Writing Competence Petitions Committee are available in either of these offices.

Petitions must be received in the University Secretariat, 2-5 University Hall, by **Thursday, March 19, 1987, 4:30 p.m.**