

Go, and go Austen

THE setting *Sense and Sensibility* is the English countryside in the early 19th century. Mr. Dashwood dies and bequeaths his estate to his son from a previous marriage, leaving his daughters Elinor (Emma Thompson) and Marianne (Kate Winslet) virtually penniless. Elinor falls in love with Edward Ferras (Hugh Grant), a reserved man torn between the life of peace and quiet he wishes to lead as a member of the clergy and the hectic life of a London "professional" desired for him by his high class family. Marianne, meanwhile, becomes enamoured with a dashing young suitor named Willoughby (Greg Wise), despite the devoted affection of the more re-

FILM
Sense and Sensibility
 Starring Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant / Screenplay by Emma Thompson (adapted from the novel by Jane Austen)

spectable Colonel Brandon (Alan Rickman). Despite the romances, the newly-lowered status of the Dashwood family women, in an time of rigid social codes, has serious ramifications on their desirability as wives.

As expected, Oscar-winner Emma Thompson is excellent in this movie. She continues to choose roles with substance, maintaining her status as one of the most talented and respected dramatic actresses around. Kate Winslet is also very good as Thompson's hopelessly romantic sister. I'm not sure if Hugh Grant can act because every movie I see him in, he stands around fluttering his eyes and bumbling his lines, with this strange contorted look on his face. Fortunately, these characteristics are well-suited to the character of Edward Ferras and Grant fits right in.

Sense and Sensibility is Thompson's debut as a professional screenplay writer, the project having taken five years and a total of fourteen revisions to complete. Not surprisingly, the end result is very polished. For a script with so many characters whose lives are all intertwined in so many different ways, the storyline is well organized. The dialogue is crisp and very amusing, and each one of the characters is fleshed out nicely.

Shot at five different locations throughout England, the lavish estates and English countryside are gorgeous. The costumes are cool too, especially Hugh Grant's neck-less Humpty Dumpty outfit.

If you're worried that this is another stuffy snoozer like *The Age of Innocence*, don't be. It's really humorous, and quite moving as well. If you want to come out of a theatre feeling good, and not like you just wasted a ridiculous amount of money on a really crappy movie, go see *Sense and Sensibility*.

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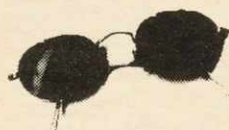
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