

Sappy script sours typical teen flick

All The Right Moves
Rialto, Plaza, West Mall

Review by Brenda Waddle

All the Right Moves was a stereotypical teen exploitation movie that will probably make millions of dollars and pull in teenage girls by the droves, mainly so they can ogle Tom Cruise's body.

It did sometimes attempt to be a serious, thought provoking movie. The central focus of the show was the desire of a group of high school football players to earn scholarships to prestigious colleges so they could escape the drudgery of the Pennsylvania steel mill town they lived in.

The casting was great. These students really did look like average high school students, rather than Hollywood pretty boys. As well, the cinematography was marvelous. The town of Ampipe, Pennsylvania was indeed depressing and claustrophobic, as well as being one of the wettest places on earth. Too bad the script did not live up to these auspicious beginnings.

Tom Cruise played Stef Djordevic, a B average student who realized he would never be a pro but who figured he could be a success playing college football. He was not an easy protagonist to like. Stef presented the image of an egotistical, snotty-nosed kid who had way too big a mouth. This was the script's fault rather than Cruise's, but regardless, it was very irritating. Stef abused his girlfriend, was

rude to a college scout and, after he screwed up in the Big Game, lipped off the coach and wound up getting kicked off the team. Many times during the movie I wound up thinking, "Why doesn't Papa

Djordevic give his son a good swift kick?" Other characters had debilitating personality problems. Coach Nickerson, played by Craig T. Nelson, at first appeared to be a selfish, hardnosed, unfeeling sadist.

He pushed, and pushed, and pushed his players in order to gain an important coaching position. The lashing out he gave one of his most sensitive players after the Big Game was inexcusable. As the wrath of the fans descended upon him after the Big Game, however, and as he started to feel remorse about his treatment of Stef, my sympathy started to flow towards him. The coach changed and matured during the course of the movie, while Stef remained the same airhead jock.

Stef's abused girlfriend, played by Lea Thompson, was an empathy deserving character, except for one slipup. She was a strong, independant girl who resented the chances that Stef was screwing up. She did make a mistake, I thought, when she decided to sleep with the jock. It seemed like she was compromising her personal standards. The urge to shout, "Don't do it, Lisa!" was almost uncontrollable. Oh well, I guess they needed a little smut to pull in the crowds.

An admirable performance was given by Christopher Penn, who played team captain Brian. Brian's dreams crumbled far more completely than Stef's when he was forced to marry his pregnant girlfriend, and yet he maintained his courage and his sensitivity. If only Stef had exhibited more of these qualities, *All the Right Moves* would have been a far better movie.



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Wednesday - 8:00 p.m. - TOOTSIE - 1983 USA, 116 min. Dir: Sydney Pollack Cast: Dustin Hoffman, Jessica Lange, Charles Durning, Bill Murray, Teri Garr Dabney Coleman and Sydney Pollack. PG.

weds 16

One morning, Alex Selky got dressed, waved goodbye to his mother, set off for school and disappeared.

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