

# VIZUALZ

## MERMAIDS SING AT TILEY TONIGHT!

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing

film review  
By Randy Campbell

Living in Fredericton, it's hard to keep up. You read the film reviews in the New York and Montreal papers, sigh, stare out the library window and feel that cinema (let alone life) is passing you by.

Well good news, campers. This weekend your very own Film Society is bringing in one of those movies they've all been talking about.

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing won the 1987 Cannes Film Festival Prix de la Jeunesse for first feature and opened Toronto's Festival of Festivals, where director Patricia Rozema was guest of honour. Mermaids has proved as popular with audiences as with critics: by November of last year this shoestring (\$350,000) production had brought in 1.3 million dollars in advances. Joe Rofekamp of Films Transit Inc., the film's international sales agent, reports that nearly every major country in the world has purchased Mermaids.

What accounts for Mermaids' critical success? Rozema and star Sheila McCarthy have created a timely and appealing image of the state of things for a wide spectrum of contemporary urbanites. Polly Vandersma, the film's heroine, is an ever-hopeful innocent who inhabits the precarious space between her daydreams and the less pliable realities of day-to-day life. (Her surname, a Dutch prefix and suffix with nothing but themselves to affix to, reflects the tenuousness of Polly's sense of herself). When she takes work as a temporary secretary at an art gallery to support her love of photography, and falls in love with the gallery's rather harder-edged curator, the clash of reality with her fantasy life results in delightful and poignant comedy.

Catch up on what you've been missing, Saturday and Sunday night in Tilley, 8:00 pm as usual. Three bucks cheap.

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## SLIME CORNER

So this is what it has slumped to... the Entertainment Section reduced to myself and PR releases and me writing grovelling little letters in a barren corner. For God's sake get your collective talents in gear and write a few paragraphs on that film you saw this week or that record you got for Chrimbo that T.V. show that made you regurgitate -- you get the picture.

Write for your dear Old Uncle Stevie and make a large but perfectly formed limehead reasonably happy.

STEVE

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