

THE LABOUR

Driftwood
Nov. 22-23-24

Tony Quinn
Nov. 29-30
Dec. 1

Lord Nelson Hotel
Corner of Spring Garden Road and
South Park Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Testament devastatingly effective

By DAVID OLIE

Earlier this year a minor sensation was caused by the ABC broadcast of their made-for-TV movie on nuclear war, *The Day After*. Overall it was quite effective in what it tried to do; the reaction afterwards is sufficient evidence of that. For the first time in many years, if ever, the average American (and Canadian) had had a clear, stark picture of the effects of nuclear war placed in front of them, and the whole peace issue became shockingly immediate.

Of course, ABC did the whole thing up right. The film was done in straight Hollywood style, with a multitude of characters and story lines glued together and lots of special effects. In a sense, it was the story of the nuking of *The Love Boat*. With so many people to care about in two hours it was hard to really get close to any of them. The dominant image (see the cover of that week's *Time*) was that of the great, simulated mushroom cloud,

and against it, the humans paled into insignificance.

Meanwhile, quietly playing in second and third run theatres was a simple, cheap and devastatingly effective film on the same topic called *Testament*.

Testament, made in 1983 and starring Jane Alexander and William Devane, is the story of one family and the town they live in in Northern California. They live

normal, middle-class lives in a normal, middle-class setting until one day there is a great white flash in the sky, the radio, TV and telephone go dead and Dad doesn't come home from work. The story continues along in its quiet way, the dramatic moments coming with a private conversation here, a tape-recorded message there, a trace of blood somewhere else. The great special effect is the absence of same and the substitution of effective direction and terrific acting. When I left the theatre afterwards, I saw there was not a dry eye in the house, including mine. See this film.

Testament will be broadcast over the Maine Public Broadcasting Network this Monday, Nov. 26 at 10:00 p.m.

Killing us softly

There will be a showing of the film, *Killing Us Softly* this Friday at noon at the National Film Board on Barrington Street. *Killing Us Softly* looks at how media images of women affect men's and women's image of themselves and their everyday lives.

Those who see nothing particularly objectionable in the December issue of *Penthouse*—and those who are enraged by it—will find this a challenging and well-documented film.

The showing is presented by Mediawatch, the National Watch on Images of Women in the Media, a group which monitors sex-role stereotyping in the media.

After the film, Halifax lawyer Mary Clancy will briefly outline some of the legal actions being taken at present. Discussion will follow.

More information: Eleanor MacLean, 422-2053.

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