

Race to see Sean Penn in *Racing With the Moon*

Racing With the Moon
- a film by Richard Benjamin

Review by David Lutes

Racing With the Moon is another one of those teen romance movies. You know the type I mean, the ones with the mischievous but good-hearted young boy who falls for the new girl in town. It's been done before and it will be done again.

Yet *Racing With the Moon* succeeds where others wouldn't. Director Richard Benjamin and writer Steven Kloves have made the plot merely the vehicle for some entertaining and often hilarious situations and vignettes combined with some excellent acting from the three leads.

Racing With the Moon is set in the small Californian town of Point Muir, in the winter of 1942-3. It is the home of Hopper Nash and his life-long best friend, Nicky (Sean Penn and Nicolas Cage, respectively).

As the story begins, Hopper and Nicky are six weeks away from becoming U.S. Marines. But, before then, Hopper falls in love with Caddie Winger (played



Sean Penn and Elizabeth McGovern find themselves falling in love in Paramount Pictures' *Racing with the Moon*, a poignant romantic comedy set in the 1940s.

by Elizabeth McGovern) and the two endure some tough times but come through them unscathed. Pretty lively, huh.

Luckily, Kloves' script rises above the thin plot in the hands of Penn, Cage, and McGovern.

Sean Penn is fast becoming my favourite actor. He combines the best elements of his first roles in the part of Hopper Nash. Hopper is one of the most interesting screen characters I've seen in a while. Penn manages to make Hopper complex without being too deep or hard to understand. Though there is room in the character to over-act, Penn restrains himself, delivering a performance that is just right.

For their part, Cage and McGovern also deliver fine performances. Though Cage sometimes seems a little stiff in the role of Nicky, especially in his enthusiasm to "kill Japs", he still manages to make the audience feel empathy for his problems.

McGovern is able to do the same thing. Never one to be typecast, McGovern moves from the "fast woman" of *Ragtime* and the "modern woman" of *Love-sick* to the sincere girl she plays

in *Racing*. McGovern's portrayal of the shy but subtly sly Caddie is a nice counter-point to Penn's role.

These three characters are by no means the only interesting ones in the movie. The town of Point Muir, as created by director Benjamin, seems to draw directly from past masters of small town life, such as John Steinbeck and William Faulkner. The town is populated with fascinating people of whom we only get a glimpse. Notable among these are John Karlen as Hopper's father and Carol Kane as Annie, the beautifully clichéd 'hooker with a heart of gold'.

About three-quarters of the way through the movie I realized that I didn't really care where the story ended as long as I could see more of the characters on the screen. This helps to reflect the carefree attitude of Hopper and his friends, and it also makes for a thoroughly entertaining evening.

I highly recommend *Racing With the Moon* to anyone who likes to be happy. Maybe I'll see you there because I'll be going back at least once.

Celtic charisma captures Cohn with the Chieftains

The Chieftains
- a concert at the Rebecca Cohn

Review by Charles Davidson

Ireland's most famous traditional music group, **The Chieftains**, opened their first set with their classic arrangement of the reel, 'Drowsy Maggie'.

Fiddlers, Martin Fay and Sean Keane, carried the melody with flutist, Matt Molloy, while the rhythmic accompaniment was provided by harpist, Derek Bell and Kevin Conneff on the bodhran, an Irish drum. Band leader, Paddy Moloney complemented the group, taking over the lead or adding harmonies, with that most Irish of instruments, the Uilleann pipes: a quieter cousin of the Scots' bagpipes.

The instruments blended beautifully (although I wish that there had been more volume for Molloy) and the solos came through nicely. These instrumental arrangements, with interspersed solos, have become the

trademark of the Chieftains, and it came as no surprise that they were played true to form.

Michael Flatley, an astounding step-dancer, did manage to both surprise and amaze the audience with his incredible footwork.

The real surprise of the evening, however, was a Chinese medley that the Chieftains put together for their recent visit to China. It was fun to hear but the heart of the evening remained with the Irish music that they have been playing for 21 years.

No wonder they are widely recognized as the leading group in their field. Whether they play the tunes of harpist Turlough O'Carolan or the reels and jigs that get the whole audience clapping along, The Chieftains bring a sensitivity to their music based on experience. This translates to pure entertainment power. The Rebecca Cohn audience was suitably thrilled and responded with two deserved standing ovations.



gingems
Hollis at Morris

UNTIL SATURDAY
HEARTBEATS

SATURDAY MATINEE
3-7 NO COVER
NOTEWORK

NEXT MONDAY
WIRRS BENEFIT
(WOMEN'S INFORMATION RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SERVICE)

TUESDAY
OPEN MIKE

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY
LITTLE LUEY AND THE NEONS

SATURDAY MATINEE
CEDAR HILL BLUEGRASS

UPPER DECK RESTAURANT
SEAFOOD



MIDDLE DECK LOUNGE
Live **MUSIC**

MIDDLE DECK
Some of the best entertainment around



LOWER DECK BEVERAGE ROOM
PUB

LOWER DECK
'Dart Night' every Monday
Live Music Tuesday - Saturday



PRIVATEERS' WAREHOUSE

422-1289
Restaurant reservations

Historic Properties, Halifax

RUSH TYPING SERVICE
Pick up service

Experienced thesis and manuscript typist - IBM Selectric - 10 or 12 pitch
435-3302

HOMeward BOUND?
fly Seat-Sale
up to six months return

TORONTO
from \$189

WINNIPEG
from \$398

CALGARY
from \$428

VANCOUVER
from \$538

+ TAX from HALIFAX

Going **TRAVEL**
YourWay! **CUTS**

The travel company of CFS
TRAVEL CUTS HALIFAX
Dalhousie, Student Union Building
902 424-2054