

ARTS

# David Lynch's new film is *Wild At Heart* . . .

by Ira Nayman

*Wild At Heart*  
directed by David Lynch  
produced by Propaganda Films

In a scene which may be cut from the final print of David Lynch's *Wild At Heart*, two men who have just been hit by shotgun blasts blindly scramble through a pool of their blood, looking for the hand of one, which was shot clean off. "If we find it in time," one man assures the other, "it can be reattached." CUT TO: the side door of the building, where a dog, human hand in its mouth, nonchalantly trots out.

TO, we're not in Kansas any more.

*Wild At Heart* is the story of Sailor (Nicolas Cage) and Lula (Laura Dern), lovers who travel across the US trying to escape from Lula's mother, who is trying to keep them apart, and the private eyes and gangsters she enlists to help her.

The film is very culturally aware, containing references to Jean-Luc Godard (Azed disagrees with me, but I still say that traffic jam at the end looks awfully familiar . . .), Elvis Presley and *The Wizard of Oz*.

*Wild At Heart* is typical of Lynch's film work: the dialogue is stylized, often highly stilted (which, unfortunately, isn't as consistently funny as it should be) and some of the imagery is highly repellent. There isn't really that much graphic violence in the film, but there is a pervasive sense of dread, a continuous expectation that something horrible is about to happen.

(If you are a *Twin Peaks* fan, beware: Lynch's television work is related to his film work in the same way a paper cut is related to a four car pile-up. In fact, by curbing some of his worst excesses, television may be responsible for some of Lynch's best work.)

*Wild At Heart* is a flawed film.



Laura Dern and Nicolas Cage share a bizarre journey through a nightmare landscape in David Lynch's *Wild At Heart*.

## . . . and weird on top

by Azed Majeed

Okay, okay . . . now, I'm a pretty liberal fella, but after viewing a David Lynch film, I feel like a cross between Jerry Falwell and Tipper Gore. Lynch's new film, *Wild At Heart*, starring Laura Dern and Nicolas Cage, is exactly what one would expect from the guy who made *Blue Velvet* and *Twin Peaks*.

Basically, it's extremely icky.

Lynch has made a career out of stripping away the glossy surface of reality to expose the seething, visceral, subterranean dark side of existence. This continuous quest into the nasty part of humanity makes Lynch a sort of new wave Joseph Conrad. (My constant quest for all night 7-Elevens, on the other hand, has made me a new wave William Conrad.)

*Wild At Heart* tells the story of Sailor (Cage) and Lula (Dern), a pair of lusty weirdos who take to the road in order to escape from Lula's deranged Mama (Dianne Ladd). On the road, Lula and Sailor encounter a number of people who are all even weirder and sicker than themselves.

The saving grace of this film is that Sailor and Lula have found true love, and everyone knows that love conquers all. Love is the true healer, the great granddaddy of 'em all, the last stop on the road paved with despair, fear and trembling. "Love, exciting and new. Come aboard. We're expecting you."

Now, all of this is fine and kind and beautiful and touching . . . ahem, I mean, in a virile, manly sort of way. However, the film left me with a feeling of deja vu.

This is very familiar territory for Lynch — as a matter of fact, this type of film can now be termed "Lynchian." He seems obsessed with putting weirder psychopathic characters in each new film, trying to outdo himself each time out. This wouldn't be too bad if it didn't seem gratuitous and detrimental to the plot.

In *Wild At Heart*, Lynch is unable to balance the plethora of excessively evil characters and the central theme. Lynch allows the plot to fall apart in order to put more weirdos on the screen. And, believe me, there are more holes in this film than in a wedge of Swiss cheese, more than an Aero bar, more than . . .

Uhh, sorry about that. Actually, there aren't that many holes in the plot — I just hate to waste a good metaphor. Nonetheless, the film is, in the end, slightly unsatisfying, definitely not as shocking as *Blue Velvet*.

I consider *Wild At Heart* the bastard child of *Blue Velvet* and *Twin Peaks*; it's not as good as either, but you'll still need to have a shower after seeing it. Regardless of the problems with the film, Lynch can still grease it up pretty good, and the soundtrack is a mother, and Willem Dafoe — MAN! He is one oily slimeball! Triple yechs for him!

So, get out to the cinema, you couch potatoes, see this film and feel good about yourselves again. As for David Lynch, I hear that he is currently collaborating with Charles Manson on a remake of *It's a Wonderful Life*.

There are too many characters, too briefly seen and poorly drawn; the movie would have been better if there had been fewer sub-plots, if Lynch had concentrated on the main story. To get attention amid the freaks and psychos, some performan-

ces are way over the top (although Dern and Cage are wonderful).

Nevertheless, Lynch is working in territory that few other directors are willing to touch: the darkness that lurks within all of our souls, and the ultimate tragedy of

the human condition. *Wild At Heart* is a black fable which, in its own way, reaffirms the redemptive power of love.

*Wild At Heart* is "rockin' good news." You just have to be prepared to forgive it some flaws and excesses.

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JSF

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Jewish Student Federation of York University will hold its annual election for the Board of Directors on *Monday, October 1, 1990* at 7:00 pm in the Senate Chambers (9th floor, Ross Building).

No person shall be eligible for election as a Director of the Corporation unless he or she is nominated by not less than three members of the corporation, and the aforesaid nomination is submitted in writing to Claire Sookman (J.S.F. Director) not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting at which an election of directors is to be held (J.S.F. By-Law No. 7).

Sample Nomination:

The undersigned nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the election of Board of Directors for the October 1, 1990 Jewish Student Federation General Meeting.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

If there are any questions please feel free to contact Claire at the J.S.F. at 736-5179.

Please note: Dinner will NOT be served.