

# Kudos for DePalma and Travolta

by Patsy Pearson

When one thinks of John Travolta, one tends to think of tough talking teenagers, macho posters on pink bedroom walls and Brooke Shields' first date. Blow out makes you think twice.

The powerful, political thriller, directed by Brian DePalma, is not only good in and of itself, but also leaves us with new respect for the star — John Travolta.

Playing Jack Terry, a mild-mannered sound effects man working on third-rate horror flicks, he accidentally records the fatal car crash of an important political candidate. He finds himself with evidence indicating that it wasn't just a tire blow out, but an assassination attempt.

Nancy Allen (DePalma's wife) plays Sally, a charming and somewhat vulnerable prostitute rescued from the governor's car by Jack. Together they try to expose a blatant political coverup to the public. They do so after the government refuses to investigate the assassination attempt in order to avoid the inevitable scandal over Sally's presence in the car. Travolta is sombrely determined to beat the system, dragging with him the only witness, Sally, who doesn't want to beat the system — just to survive in it.

The story that consequently unravels is quick paced and full of suspense. It has refreshing interludes between Allen and Travolta during which a warm

friendship develops. DePalma deserves credit for avoiding a typical, drawn-out love story, which would tend to distract us from the intended message, without omitting some real, human communication.

A series of twisting subplots sufficiently complicate the main story line so as to avoid predictability. Although this helps DePalma emphasize the gruesome truth behind political conspiracy, a series of brutal murders leading up to the "shutting up" of Sally, seem an unlikely form of coverup, even for the government.

Cinematography and sound are used effectively to enhance the suspense, and the characters are played with warmth and

depth. Travolta emerges in this performance as more mature and low-key than in his previous films. He does not play the hero, but rather directs our energies against the political system. Had he chosen to evoke empathy for this character (the "Tragic Hero") the movie would not have worked.

Blow Out is a surprisingly good combination of political protest and human relations that leaves the viewers torn between two questions as they file out of the theatre:

Can the government really be that bad?

Can Travolta really be that good?



"No, no, you've got it all wrong. You're much more advanced than us—in fact, the thing we came in was supposed to be a tin opener."

"'BODY HEAT' IS A HIT. YOU NOT ONLY SEE AND HEAR THIS MOVIE, YOU CAN ALMOST FEEL IT."

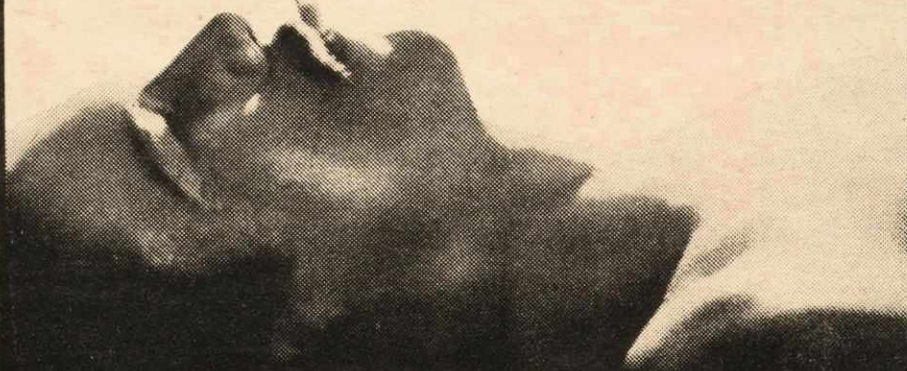
— Gene Shalit, Today Show-NBC-TV

"'BODY HEAT' IS HOT STUFF. ITS STEAMY, SULTRY, SEXY STORY COMES OFF THE SCREEN IN WAVES OF IMAGERY THAT SEAR YOUR EYEBALLS."

— Jack Kroll, Newsweek

"'BODY HEAT' IS THE FILM TO HEAT UP THE BOXOFFICE."

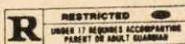
— Rona Barrett, NBC-TV



## BODY HEAT

As the temperature rises, the suspense begins.

"BODY HEAT" WILLIAM HURT KATHLEEN TURNER and RICHARD CRENNNA Written and Directed by LAWRENCE KASDAN Produced by FRED T. GALLO PANAVISION® TECHNICOLOR®



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