

ARTS

Thelma and Louise – Queens of the road

BY ROLAND LINES

IN *Thelma & Louise*, director Ridley Scott presents a gritty, high-energy road movie with an unusual twist.

FILM
Thelma & Louise
Park Lane

The basic plot is familiar. Two sympathetic outlaws race through the dusty backroads of the American Southwest, chased by the gathering forces of state and federal authorities. In a vintage

Thunderbird convertible, no less. But this film has a difference. The two outlaw buddies are women.

Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon star in this film about best friends Thelma Dickinson and Louise Sawyer. They were looking for a weekend escape from their small-town lives when a violent incident put them on the run from the law.

Once they escape the dark, oppressive rains of Arkansas, the freedom of the open road returns a youthful exuberance to the film.

The script, written by Callie Khouri, is packed with comic energy and witty dialogue.

But that first night's fatal gunshot and the violence that precipitated it, echo throughout the film. A melancholy guitar periodically slides into the background to remind us of the film's darker subtext.

Thelma and Louise were running from the beginning, even before they became outlaws. The law is only one incarnation of the men standing in the way of their freedom.

Davis plays Thelma, a young housewife whose life was miserable because her husband Darryl (Christopher McDonald) never let her have fun. She did not tell him about her weekend vacation, but left a note with a beer and microwave dinner. Later in the

"They were running from the beginning even before they became outlaws"

film Thelma hints at her complicity with Darryl's dominance. "He is an asshole," she says. "Most of the time I just let it slide."

Michael Madsen plays Jimmy, Louise's musician boyfriend. He is always on the road and never willing to commit to their relationship. He only proposes to Louise when he realizes he is losing her.

Hal is a paternal Arkansas police detective played by Harvey Keitel. He establishes telephone contact with Louise and tries to

talk her in. He desperately wants to protect the two women from the violence he sees brewing.

Thelma experiences a sexual awakening with a young drifter named J. D. (Brad Pitt). In keeping with the film's spirit, the camera's eye lingers on his chest, not hers. Some new difficulties arise from their meeting, but J. D. also passes on a useful piece of advice. "I always believe that if it's done properly, armed robbery doesn't have to be a totally unpleasant experience."

Harlan is a smooth-talking cowboy who exudes a casual confidence in the barroom. But he becomes a remorseless, slaving brute when Thelma resists his advances in the parking lot.

Thelma and Louise try to re-educate some of the other men they meet along the way. They give a punctuated lesson in manners to Earl, a crude and ubiquitous truck driver. And the New Mexico highway patrolman who stops them for speeding is warned to be kind to his wife. "My husband wasn't nice to me," quips Thelma, "and look how I turned out."

Even if you are not interested in any underlying messages, *Thelma & Louise* is still an entertaining film. It is full of humour, drama and fast-paced action, and the transitions between the three are seamless. The cinematography and music blend beautifully to create an immediacy that lets you feel the sun on your face and taste the dust in your mouth.

Thelma & Louise is now playing in Halifax at the Park Lane cinemas on Spring Garden Road.



King Apparatus after a trip to the barber shop.

Super SUB super

BY ARAN MCKITTRICK

ON SATURDAY NIGHT, three ultimately different bands played at the Student Union Building for this year's Super Sub. The largest of the three acts was the wild and energetic Toronto ska band King Apparatus. Newfoundland's latest folk/rock group Rawlins Cross performed in the cafeteria, with the third and final band Three Piece Suit performing in the Green Room.

MUSIC
King Apparatus, Rawlins Cross, Three Piece Suit
Student Union Building

Each band drew a different sort of crowd according to the type of music each played. Rawlins Cross, one of Atlantic Canada's best up-and-coming bands, performed several of their popular "folky-rock" tunes from their latest album "A Turn of The Wheel." They performed these tunes with such traditional instruments as bagpipes, trumpets, tin whistles, with a touch of electrical guitar, bass and synthesizer. The crowd appeared to enjoy each song whether sitting there listening contently or "jigging" around the tiny dance floor all night.

Just upstairs in the Green Room Three Piece Suit opened up their first act of Eagles' cover songs with intermittent jokes. Though they appeared to get off to a slow start

the trio began to attract more attention as the night wore on. By the end of the night the tiny Green Room was honking with the sound of acoustic guitars.

For those more energetic crowd members who were looking for originality in a band, King Apparatus had what they were looking for. From the moment they played the first song the crowd started to "boogie" and didn't stop until the second encore was over. The atmosphere was set by each member of the Toronto-based band, as each had even more energy than the crowd did. Headed by the lead singer, each member of the band was jamming around the stage, never missing a beat. Their first two sets consisted of songs from their latest cassette "Loud Party" as well as a mixture of tunes by The Specials, The Beat and even a couple of reggae tunes by Bob Marley himself. When they came to their

final set of the night they began to appeal to the crowd for requests; and wound up playing a couple of improvised rap songs by the Beastie Boys and several other rock and roll favourites.

What a night! The "fun-filled funky" evening of dancing and sing-a-longs which did not stop until early Sunday morning. The crowd seemed quite impressed with the three different bands they had to choose from. Here is a word of thanks to all of those organisers of this year's event, you did a great job!



You don't have to be artsy or get naked to work at the Gazette, but hey, it's a lot more fun! Drop in at room 312 of the Student Union Building or call us at 494-2507.

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