

Cher shines in *Suspect*



Cher as a lawyer

Suspect
Tri Star Pictures
Westmount

review by Tara Krotowich

Movies based on the theme of proving the bad guy innocent are becoming an increasingly popular idea for film writers and producers. Most of these films follow the same basic storyline: a crime is committed, suspects are found, and the two sides try to prove the other wrong in court. Peter Yates' new suspense film *Suspect* starring Cher and Dennis Quaid, follows this formula carefully. However, there are some small but important changes made to it. It is these changes that make *Suspect* that much better than the rest.

When the film begins, one's attention is immediately aroused. This shows skill on the part of the producer Daniel A. Sherkow. Both himself and the viewer know that when the action starts thirty minutes into the film, it doesn't take long for boredom to set in.

The story unfolds in the predictable manner of most court-related films. First, an unsuspected victim is found murdered. Then, a suspect (Liam Neeson) is found and taken into custody. Liam Neeson is very convincing in his simplistic role as a deaf-mute war veteran accused of murder. He does not have to try hard in order for us to understand the character he portrays.

Luckily enough, Carl Anderson (Neeson) is represented by a hard working attorney who also understands him. This is of course public defender Kathleen Riley, played by Cher.

As the court discussions continue and more information is uncovered, an interesting relationship develops between Anderson's attorney Kathleen and Eddy Stagner (played by Dennis Quaid). Mr. Stagner, a lobbyist for the American milk producers, is a quick witted, sarcastic juror for the Anderson case. Although it is a possible threat to her career, Miss Riley's relationship with the juror greatly assists her in proving her case. It also provides an interesting finale to the long drawn out court battle.

For a suspense film, *Suspect* is not exactly a nail-biter. The film dwells too much on what is taking place inside the courtroom which becomes rather repetitious. For the more gritty street scenes that are suspenseful, the music should take all of the credit. Throughout the movie, low mysterious music lurks in the background. There is just enough there to keep us alert and wondering what will happen next.

Although the story is not all that it could be, it is the acting that makes *Suspect* what it is. Cher's performance as attorney Kathleen Riley clearly surpasses the efforts by Dennis Quaid in the other lead role. Cher proves to be the viewer her versatility as an actress. Previously, we have seen Cher comfortably perform roles such as a factory worker and a member of a motorcycle gang. In *Suspect*, Cher portrays a totally different character, a lawyer. She does so with ease and grace. The

effort and dedication she puts forth in order to prove her client innocent is both believable and convincing. Cher appears to be comfortable with her role and has no trouble portraying her character.

Dennis Quaid however, is not quite as convincing. While he appears to have fun with his role as Mr. Stagner the juror, his smart sarcasm and smooth talking do not add much to the film.

Suspect is not a film that keeps you on the edge of your seat. However, it does have

what it takes to grab your attention and keep it focused throughout the movie. The story clearly and diligently follows the main theme and avoids getting off on a tangent with unnecessary details. Here I am referring to the relationship between Miss Riley and Mr. Stagner. It is evident that Mr. Sherkow decided to "close the door" on the more romantic scenes.

For movie fans and Cher fans especially, *Suspect* is definitely one that is worth your while.

Offbeat Scottish comedy likeable and thoughtful

Restless Natives
Princess Theatre

review by Matt Hays

Scotland has done it again. From this country comes yet another great independent film.

Restless Natives is the story of two bright (if somewhat awkward) Scottish youths: Ronnie works in a joke shop, and Will sweeps up garbage on the street — these two aren't rich. The film opens with their bungling of a robbery of a car on the highway. Will and Ronnie aren't nasty, you understand; they're extremely likeable fellows. This is their main problem, initially: their would-be victims won't take them seriously.

Will and Ronnie get successful as highway robbers when they hit on a great idea: tour buses. Wearing masks from the joke shop, the two use plastic guns to rob the inhabitants of the bus. This clears up much of the moral question of taking someone else's money, as one character justifies: "What tourists don't lose they'll just spend on plastic bagpipes."

Alas, complications would have to set in. These lads are too naive for complications not to set in. During one robbery, Will makes eyes with the attractive tour guide on board. After the robbery, he convinces Ronnie to return to the bus, so that he can give her a

bouquet of flowers.

These unconventional highway robbers soon become folk heroes, as the publicity surrounding the robberies leads to a boom in Scottish tourism.

This film is accentuated by magnificent cinematography of Scottish countryside and downtown Edinburgh. The band Big Country supplies a splendid score.

At first glance, *Restless Natives* appears to be an innocuous little comedy. There's more to this film, though. In many ways it's similar to *My Beautiful Laundrette*; because although the plot does not revolve directly around politics, a political subtext exists. Will and Ronnie have clearly been affected by heightened unemployment under Thatcher. They are both basically good people who have very few serious job prospects (let alone career goals). One gets the idea these two have been forced into a life of crime due to a lack of opportunity.

Scotland is depicted as a country on the decline, whose central industry has become tourism. The American and Japanese tourists in the film are presented as a brash, loud, somewhat goofy bunch.

But despite this commentary, the film is light in tone. Some critics describe a certain class of movies as "feelgood." *Restless Natives* definitely falls into this category.

THE GREAT

Spuds Mackenzie

AND, THE WINNER IS...
SEAN BRETT

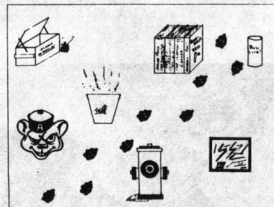
Sean Brett will receive the Treasure Hunt Award from Doug Lavallee of Labatt's Brewery. Sean is in his last year of an after-degree program in the Faculty of Business. His first degree was in Computing Science. The coupon was hidden under the Canada Post mailing box outside the Power Plant Post Office. The adjacent summary tells who the clues lead to the area. Many thanks to all those who participated in this hunt, and we look forward to your support in our next promotion.

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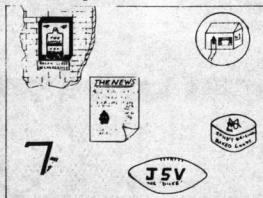
TREASURE HAS BEEN FOUND How the Clues Lead to the Coupon



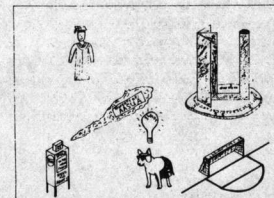
CLUE NO. 1: This clue was intended to limit the area to the University of Alberta Campus.



CLUE NO. 2: The thing to note in this clue was reverse paw print between the books and the "Bud Lite." This was to indicate that attention should be given to a library and/or a bar.



CLUE NO. 3: The link between the treasure coupon and the SU publication was the key to clue no. 3. The SU publication was the Student Handbook. On the Handbook's cover is a picture of the Pharmacy/Dentistry Building. Hence, behind the cover meant behind the building.



CLUE NO. 4: In this clue Spuds was trying to give the "idea" of where the coupon was. The "I" watt bulb is the same watt that is on the sides of the old North Power Plant. Finding the clue now involved extensive searching of the area around the Power Plant.