

"Love and Death": a great film

by Mike Greenfield

"Love and Death" is Woody Allen's comic cinematic vision of the classic Russian novel. If you are already Woody Allen fan this film will not dissappoint you, if you are not already a Woody Allen fan this film should turn you into one.

Woody plays his usual shlep, only this time a Russian one. He parodies the typical Russian hero caught up in the catalysmic events of Russian history yet a man torn by an inner feeling of emptiness. He must search, search for the true meaning of life, for God, for a good lay.

Diane Keaton plays the heroine, Sonja. She is half saint-half whore (a la Crime and Punishment), although this Sonja is a little more whore than anything else.

Alas hero and heroine are separated. Woody is forced to go off and defend Mother Russia against the pastry rich French. While Sonja rejects Woody and marries a herring merchant for her own security.

However, one cannot separate this great love duo for long. Eventually they re-unite, learn to love each other, and plot to assassinate Napoleon. In the climactic ending our hero is caught shooting a bogus Emperor, thrown into a dungeon, and shot. Although Woody dies Sonja lives on to expostulate the objectively subjective philisophical dialectic components of wheat.

The theme of death is present throughout. In a parody on Bergman-like dream images the ritual dance of death is acted out. At the end Woody Allen and Death, skip merrily down the lane.

The plot is a mixture of Dostoyevski and Tolstoy, the photographic images are a play on Bergman, and the comedy is all Allen. "Love and Death" is a super rich comic mixture of visual slapstick and high calibre wit that keeps on coming at the audience. Allen is the un-typical Russian amid the standard Russian stereotypes. His Chaplin-like antics and super quick wit drain the viewer of his

serious vision and doubles him over in a comic fit. He is the crown jester who provides the needed comic relief in royal fashion. The film seems much longer then it actually is because it is such a dense mixture of comedy.

As in all his films Allen is the classic shnook who nevertheless manages to get the girl. He lives out his own fantasies and self doubts on the screen. He ridicules himself and his environment, but still manages to get the best of the situation.

Of course every comedian needs a

partner and the Allen-Keaton duo ist threatening to become a classic. Diane Keaton has tremendous abilities. Some of her scenes with Allen will undoubtedly go down in the record books. She portrays the misguided oversexed intellectual heroine.. Although she at times does fail to live up to her potential, particularly when she all too obviously attempts to imitate Allen's wisecracking style. She has her own unique verve which is often a perfect compliment to Allen's.

Perhaps the greatest tribute that

can be given this film is that the more you see it the funnier it gets. Great expectations are generally dampened somewhat on second view of a movie that you enjoyed the first time; "Love and Death" has so many fantastic twists and funnies that one viewing is not enough to catch them all. "Love and Death" is another great Woody Allen film in the mold of Sleeper and Bananas. It is the best film now playing in Halifax, and one of the best playing anywhere.

John Lee Hooker sold out

It's not very often that metro audiences get to hear a really fine Blues artist, which accounts for all the excitement over the up-coming JOHN LEE HOOKER concert at Dalhousie Arts Centre, in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, on Friday, November 21, at 8:30 p.m.

By the time he was thirteen, John Lee's serious intentions to be a musician were well-charted. He took the logical step and ran to Memphis, to Beale Street where he eventually sold candy in a movie house, and sang gospel songs with a group in the Baptist Church.

He was not long in Memphis and from the time he left until the time much later when he settled in Detroit, he was a drifter. During the Second World War, he worked in factories wherever the work or the inclination took him, but principally in Cincinnati and Memphis.

In 1948, he came at last to Detroit. He subsequently began to record with local record labels and was rewarded with speedy recognition when his single, "Boogie Chillun" became a national hit. Since then the name JOHN LEE HOOKER means the finest in blues entertainment.

Featured on the bill for the JOHN LEE HOOKER concert at the



John Lee Hooker will appear in concert at the Rebecca Cohn on November 21.

Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, on Friday, November 21, will be the talented performer MICHAEL POLACCO. At 28 years of age, Michael Polacco stands on the threshold of a brilliant career. He is a prolific writer who uses his own compositions to a great extent, however, he does use other material

which he usually re-writes and arranges to suit his own energetic style. Michael's compositions are also being performed by other artists and Richie Haven will do two songs for his forthcoming album. Michael also has a soon-to-be-released album.



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