



UNDER THE CHERRY MOON

Prince Stars And Directs

Prince has switched from purple to black and white. If he shocked audiences with his sexual gyrations in *Purple Rain* he will, if nothing else, surprise them with his latest venture **Under the Cherry Moon**. It is shot entirely in black and white to capture, what he calls, "the stark, surreal imagery."

Under the Cherry Moon tells the story of a young American piano player named Chris who works at one of the fancier hotels in Nice. He and his good friend Tricky are notorious womanizers. They are only out for the good times to be had with the rich socialites until they both get the hots for the same young heiress. Chris falls head over heels in love but their relationship is complicated by her father's distaste for his lower class origins.

Cherry Moon, unlike *Purple Rain* is a Romeo and Juliet like fantasy. *Purple Rain* was closer to Prince's roots. Like the character he played in his first film Prince was born in Minneapolis to a black/Italian musician father and raised till the age of 13 by his singer mother. He says he got the passion for music at a very young age and was, by the age of five, sneaking out to watch his father perform. It should be noted that some biographers feel Prince has fuzzied the line between truth and fiction, but Prince also claims to have started his lust for women at the ripe old age of eight when he discovered a pile of pornographic novels underneath his mother's less graphic fashion magazines.

Prince says his life became more complicated when his father split and he ended up living in a friend's basement to avoid his new stepfather. He says he worked out his woes with music, "My brain was free of everything. I knew it was okay to explore anything I wanted down there in the basement because things weren't forbidden anymore. That's when I realized that music could express what you were feeling and it started coming out of my songs: loneliness and poverty and sex."

Prince is something of an enigma in the music business. He is a very private person and has annoyed a lot of reporters and fans by refusing interviews and surrounding himself with loutish bodyguards, several of whom have landed in court for roughing up photographers and breaking their cameras. He also, at a recent awards show, issued instructions that he was not to be looked at, prompting some critics to wonder if he had tipped over the edge. But eccentricities notwithstanding he is a brilliant musician. He was the youngest artist to ever be granted total artistic control on a first album. By the time he was 19 he had sold over three million records.

has once again, surrounded himself with relative unknowns. His co-star Jerome Benton delighted audiences in *Purple Rain* as the comedic chauffeur for Morris Day (in real life he was a member of Day's band *The Time* and is now percussionist with *The Family*, another Minneapolis based band). Kristin Scott Thomas makes her acting debut as the rich love object. Thomas is straight out of France's National Theatre school. Steven Berkoff who had villainous roles in *Beverly Hills Cop*, *Rambo* and *Octopussy* is the disapproving father and the mother is Canadian actress Alexandra Stewart who some will remember from *Black Moon* and *Exodus*.



Purple Rain introduced him to a whole new audience but Prince already had a great deal of experience with fame.

So far the sound track from *Purple Rain* has sold 10 million records and has won him two Grammys and an Academy Award for best score. His last album *Around the World in a Day* recently went triple platinum (3 million) and *Parade* the soundtrack for **Under the Cherry Moon** is already being touted for similar success.

In **Under the Cherry Moon** Prince

It should be mentioned that Prince not only stars in **Under the Cherry Moon** he is also making his directorial debut, which isn't that outrageous considering he has been directing in sound studios since he turned 17.... Besides how can you be surprised by anything Prince does? This is a man who graced one of his earlier album covers wearing a bikini bathing suit and a leather studded trench coat. He likes to shock and so far no subject or medium has been immune to his sexuality and controversy.