

Cousin, Cousine... Cousins

review by Grant Winton

Cousins is a beautiful comedy about the lives of two families, and how they change as the families become related through marriage.

Cousins is the latest presentation from Joel Schumacher, and he continues in his tradition of ensemble casts. Far from being

about Larry (Ted Danson) and Maria (Isabella Rossellini), the movie tells us of the lives and loves of all the family members, from Larry and Maria's respective spouses, to Larry's father and son.

Inspired by the 1975 hit French film *Cousin, Cousine*, which was one of the highest grossing foreign films of all time, *Cousins* is the story of Larry and Maria

meeting and becoming friends. Meanwhile Larry's wife Tish (Sean Young) and Maria's husband Tom (William Petersen) are out having a romp in the bushes.

Rather than just following the story of Larry and Maria, though, Schumacher and writer Stephen Metcalfe investigate how Tom and Tish cope with the goings on, and even add comedic side stories between Tish's mother Edie (Norma Aleandro) and Larry's father Vince (Lloyd Bridges), who spend months coming to a business agreement, and Vince and his grandson Mitch (Keith Coogan), who perform a little dance together as part of preparation for Vince's big date.

Ted Danson does an excellent job performing in his first real leading role. He plays the part of Larry, the man who is a failure at everything except life, perfectly. Isabella Rossellini is equally good as Maria.

Her role is more subdued than the one that vaulted her to stardom, in *Blue Velvet*, but she does an excellent job portraying Maria. Her character is a woman who is thankful to have a stable life, if not a very happy one.

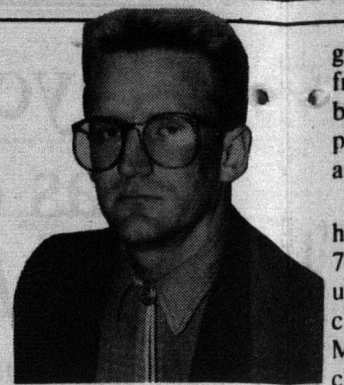
Special mention should go to Keith Coogan as Mitch, who provides much of the comedy in the film. From telling children stories of wedding axe-murderers, to making a wedding video that intersperses shots of fat women eating cake with the starving in Africa, both character and actor are funny and poignant.

The movie is an excellent, very realistic look at what happens when two people fall in love. Rather than concentrating on the two people, it shows that the lives of many others are also affected. A joyful, happy film, it will appeal to those who want a real view of life, and to those who just want a good laugh.



Cousins defines 80s relationships — coping and groping.

Randal Smathers



Bar Tabs is back

I started out trying to write a column called Bar Tabs earlier this year, which failed more because of over-enthusiasm than from lack of effort.

My fellow author and I did far too much drinking and not nearly enough note-taking, and finally our livers told us to quit.

The reason I bring this up is not so much that this is exam (read drinking) week, but because I have a complaint about inn music. I recently spoke to a friendly serving lass about the situation and received the usual shrug for a reply, so I thought I'd write about it.

Check out the music at your normal watering hole, and I'll bet it falls into one of the following categories: Trendy, or Oldies.

Trendy music is okay at times, like when Timbuk 3 or Neil Young is on top of the charts, but when Tiffany is hot, look out. The potential for abuse is really high with Trendy as well. I used to work at a nightclub, and the DJ played "The Lady in Red" at least three times a night — he had to, of course, because all the drunk women in red who wanted to get a little action in would request it non-stop, but that doesn't make it any easier to listen to.

Another time, in another club, I had the

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