

Peggy Sue: a blast back to past

Peggy Sue Got Married
Tri Star Pictures
West Mall 8

review by Susan McLaughlin
and Karen Baier

"If I knew then what I know now, I'd have done things differently."

Peggy Sue Kelcher

Have you ever wished that you could go back to high school with all the wisdom that you have now? Peggy Sue Kelcher played by Kathleen Turner, has this chance, and relives her past in Francis Coppola's new film *Peggy Sue Got Married*.

The movie begins with a class of '60 reunion which Peggy Sue is reluctant to attend because of a recent separation with her husband and former highschool sweetheart Crazy Charley Bodell. (Bodell is now an infamous T.V. sales personality played by Nicholas Cage). Persuaded to attend the reunion by her daughter, Peggy Sue wavers between laughter and tears as she is reunited with old friends.

All seems well until Peggy Sue is crowned homecoming queen. Then she is suddenly overwhelmed by flashing lights, distorted faces and Coppola's surrealistic fog. Lo and behold, we have been thrust along with Peggy Sue into the year 1960.

Now the dilemmas begin and hence the comedy as Peggy Sue, a forty year old, sexually liberated woman of the Eighties finds



Peggy Sue: back when life was one big prom.

herself back in her highschool days. Formerly frigid Peggy now knows what she wants and she confuses boyfriend Charley with this sudden change.

Much of the movie's humor arises from the fact that although Peggy Sue is sixteen again, she feels and acts like an adult. It is

astonishing to her father when she has a good stiff drink after a hard day at school. And much to boyfriend Charley's surprise Peggy Sue is now attracted to the outcasts and intellectual egg-heads of the highschool. She is particularly fascinated by one very beautiful but rebellious teen poet who will

later become quite a famous author. She also frequents the lab of one young scientist who is fascinated by her futuristic forecasts walkmans, space travel, pantyhose and the micro chip.

Being surrounded by her oh-so adolescent school chums is not as much fun as Peggy would suspect. She often feels burdened with her knowledge of the future, and at times the movie becomes nostalgic and sad. Peggy Sue's return provides her with the opportunity to say goodbye to her beloved grandparents and their sundrenched rejoining creates an appealing emotional scene.

Apart from a few similarities with *Back To The Future*, *Peggy Sue Got Married* has some hilariously funny moments of its own right. In addition to its humor, this movie is delightfully reminiscent of the sixties complete with Chevies, neon, cheerleaders and bobby sox. Both Kathleen Turner and Nicholas Cage are perfectly suited to their roles.

Above all this, Coppola successfully captures the haunting fascination that we all have for our past, and through Peggy Sue he reveals some surprising yet worthwhile conclusions.

What does this movie have to do with Buddy Holly? Nothing. With Nostalgia? Something. With the perfectly human yearning to turn back the clock to our past and see how we'd change our lives? Everything.

Color of Money: a successful cue ball flick

The Color of Money ****
Touchstone Films
Garneau

review by Dean Bennett

Director Martin Scorsese has a winner with his latest film *The Color of Money*. Scorsese has combined a good script with some first rate acting and excellently directed poolroom action sequences.

The Color of Money is actually a sequel to *The Hustler*, a 1961 film about pool shark Fast Eddie Felson (played by Paul Newman). In *Color* Newman reprises his Fast Eddie role. In this film, Fast Eddie has aged quite a bit. He has quit the game and now spends his time selling whiskey and bankrolling young pool prospects.

One such prospect is young Vincent Lauria (Tom Cruise). Vince likes to win money but he plays primarily for the love of the game itself. "It's just a game, man," he tells Eddie. "Balls and a stick."

The problem with Vince is even though he plays the meanest game of nine-ball Eddie has ever seen, he doesn't know how to utilize his talent. "You couldn't find the big time if you had a road map," Eddie tells him.

With the help of Vincent's girlfriend Carmen (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio) who also wants a slice of the big time, Vince agrees to go on the road, sharpen his pool skills, hustle some money and later move on to the 9-Ball Championship in Atlantic City.

The young Vince has changed the hardened Eddie. Through Vince, Eddie rekindles

his love for billiards. "You remind me that money won is twice as nice as money earned," he tells Vince. "I'm happy again. You've bled that back into me."

Vincent, however, is having a hard time adjusting to Eddie's hustling ways. Eddie wants Vince to sharpen his skills but he also wants to hustle customers in pool halls by having Vince lose all the time. This way Vince will be an unknown going into Atlantic City and the odds on him will be greater.

Vince can't adapt. He enjoys the pool too much and he enjoys winning too much to throw games for money. After watching Vince fail to adapt (and after being himself in a game) Eddie parts with Vince and Carmen and leaves.

Eddie decides to return to the game. He travels to Atlantic City and beats Vincent out of the tournament only to find out the now-corrupted Vince threw the game to better the odds against him when he plays for side bets in the tournament's practice room. Eddie sees his corrupted morals in Vince and decides to re-evaluate his morality.

The acting is first rate. Newman, making his first big screen appearance since *Harry and Son* in 1983 is at his usual level of excellence. Tom Cruise, in his third movie of 1986 (the other two being *Legend* and *Top Gun*) also excels. He is definitely at his best when portraying the well-meaning but brash and cocky kid. The Lauria role resembles in many ways the Maverick character in *Top Gun*.

Scorsese's direction however, overshadows all. This film should be seen if just for the

poolroom sequences. The camera is constantly moving, a zooming in and out with a fluidity of movement that is easy to watch. Add the pulsating beat of the soundtrack and Cruise's skillful, adroit twirling of his pool cue between shots and you've got some memorable scenes.

Good stuff.

Film Notes: *The Color of Money* is Newman's 45th starring role in a motion picture. Newman and Cruise practiced their pool a lot during the ten week filming period. In fact, they each had pool tables put in their apartments... Scorsese is one of four famous

American directors to be discovered by producer/director Roger Corman. The others are Francis Coppola, Brian DePalma and Peter Bogdanovich... *Color* is Cruise's eighth film and his fourth starring role

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—Mike Clark, USA TODAY

"Blue Velvet is rudely audacious, violent, graphic, silly, funny, scary, entirely mesmerizing. . ."

—Ron Base, TORONTO STAR



Blue Velvet

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