

The suburban marriage made fun in Schedules

Schedules
Theatre Network
 Run ends October 25
 by Rosa Jackson

If the latest statistics on infidelity haven't scared you off the suburban dream of marital bliss yet, I recommend that you see the play *Schedules*, by Bruce McManus, at Theatre Network. It is guaranteed to make single people think twice about changing their lifestyles, and cause married couples to laugh at themselves.

Watching the play is like being a fly on the wall in the living room of a couple you know — perhaps even your own room! Donna (Susan Sneath), the self-confessed "loon", and the "analytic" Ed (James Downing), are both workaholics with little time for a home life. As the play opens, they have sent their two kids away to their grandparents and are about to "rediscover" each other during their first night alone together in four years. If this sounds like an almost impossible task

somewhat exaggerated and their continual bickering verges on being irritating, but in the second they make contact with each other as they attempt to solve their differences in zany ways.

These antics become more and more unpredictable as the play develops and pro-

"...a typical family household, complete with Kermit the Frog hanging from the chandelier."

vide its most memorable moments. Without giving these away, I will give you a hint — they involve asparagus in the vegetable garden and a garden hose in the house. Use your imagination, or go and see the play!

Susan Sneath gives an effective performance as the excessively spontaneous Donna, although at times she overdoes her character's mannerisms. James Downing has the opposite problem with his character, Ed. At the beginning of the play he is rather dull and uninteresting, carrying his character's personality one step too far. As Ed drops his inhibitions, however, Downing proves himself to be a hilarious comic actor.

The pace is well maintained by the director, Greg Colman, and the set does not miss a detail in portraying a typical family household, complete with Kermit the Frog hanging from the chandelier. This play may discourage you from having a family, but it ends on an optimistic note. It portrays the problems of the 80's in a realistic light and, thankfully, maintains humor throughout.

"The night turns out to be a very, very long one!"

to you, you probably already have this play figured out. The night turns out to be a very, very long one!

Donna and Ed's relationship is, at first, as frustrating for us to watch as living it is to them. They have obviously grown apart, and their failure to communicate is a constant source of argument. As the audience we can see both their points of view, and we alternate between empathizing with Donna and Ed.

In the first act, their characters seem



James Woods (right) plays the best movie villain since Darth Vader.

Best Seller thrills

Best Seller
Orion Pictures
Odeon Theater

review by Dragos Ruiu

This movie succeeds. It is a tightly written, big budget action-thriller. Both James Woods, who plays the Mafia hit man wanting to confess and screw up his former boss in a published account of his murders, and Brian Dennehy, who plays the cop/writer approached by Woods, are excellently cast.

These two actors make the movie fun. The hate like relationship that builds between them is the centerpiece of the movie. Dennehy is a gruff cop who turned into a writer after a brutal writer, and he doesn't like Woods. Woods is a cold-as-ice killer who desperately wants Dennehy to see that they are both sides of the same coin: they both kill people, but from different sides of the law.

The conflict between the two makes for some very exciting, entertaining, and sometimes funny scenes. There is a beautiful scene where the two of them visit Woods' family. The family members aren't aware of

what their small town boy does for a living. "I hate guns," Woods' father declares.

There is tongue-in-cheek humor throughout, and it makes a great combination with the action-mystery. The producers spent the money necessary to give this movie a realistic feel. The locations and sets have a big-budget atmosphere, and the camera work is exemplary.

The unquestionable star of the movie (besides the tight plot) is Woods as Cleave. He plays the best movie villain since Darth Vader. He is a ruthless killer who you can't help but like. He has panache, he is cool, he dresses sharp, and you should never mess with him.

In a scene near the conclusion, where Cleave is busy being shot at by many bodyguards, he has to go outside to 'take care' of them. The bullets are flying, but Cleave stops and puts on his shades before disposing of the troublemakers. This guy could scare Dirty Harry.

There is violence, but it doesn't go overboard into a fake-blood fest. The movie moves fast. It's good.

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