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DWAYNE MCLAUGHLIN Photo

Andre Dicaire (left) and Joey Kilfoil were two of the featured performers at Saturday's Folk Collective coffeehouse.

Joe Tynan reviewed

Alan Alda's Joe Tynan isn't altogether believable as a politician but he's a warm sensitive, intelligent character, around whom an uncommonly well meaning movie has been fashioned. Mr. Alda's screenplay for *The Seduction of Joe Tynan* is ambitious enough to touch on even more aspects of this man's life than it can comfortably handle - especially because Tynan's main problem is how to keep his wife, children, mistress and dizzying career from running away from him.

But Mr. Alda offers someone who genuinely cares about his diverse interests, even when they conflict, and who has a natural talent for making sound choices. The title is a bit misleading, and so is any notion that the film is about politics. For one thing, Mr. Alda's Tynan while certainly human enough to have his head turned by sufficient flattery isn't passive enough to be seduced. For another

he isn't chilly enough to pay single-minded attention to political life. Mr. Alda plays Tynan's professional smoothness to the hilt, but he never gives the man enough ruthlessness to match his alleged charisma, or enough charisma to explain his status as a budding national hero.

A crucial scene at the end of the movie show Tynan about to make a nominating speech at the Democratic National Convention, more eager to have a heart-to-heart talk with his wife than to make the speech. In the end as he steps out before an auditorium full of cheering delegates, the thing that gives him, the greatest satisfaction is his wife's smile. Implausible as this may be in the arena of national politics, it seems applicable enough to a more generalized kind of fame, which is perhaps what Mr. Alda meant to consider in the first place. In any case, Tynan's colleagues in the Senate are so well played that the film's wheeler-dealer scenes work nicely enough on the level of simple character study. And his complicated home life could just as well be that of any man who is suddenly more-celebrated than he ever expected to be.

Barbara Harris plays Tynan's bright, pretty, admirably, self-sufficient wife with whom he is very evidently in love. Meryl Streep, more stunning with each new appearance on the screen has an equally tangible hold on him as a cool, clever, irresistible labor lawyer with whom he is thrown into professional contact. It can't remain strictly business for long. But Miss Streep's remarkable accomplishment is to keep Tynan and the audience perpetually off balance, to turn a predictable affair into a source of constant surprise.

The director, Jerry Schatzberg achieves the most subtly impressive scene in the film when, as Miss Streep realizes during a private conference in the Senator's office that their flirtation is about to become something more, he simply trains the camera in closely on her astonishingly versatile face.

The principal thing that keeps *The Seduction of Joe Tynan* engrossing is the level of acting it sustains throughout. Rip Torn brings a new dimension to political sleaziness in the role of a skirt-chasing (and catching) Southern Senator and Melvyn Douglas is suitably alarming as an elder statesman on the verge of senility. Miss Harris is particularly graceful in avoiding the stereotype of the politicians wife. Just as Miss Streep does, she shows the audience something new.

New York Times

Alan Alda Writes and Stars in Joe Tynan. Playing Tilley Hall Sunday, Feb. 10.

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