

Beaches leaves one dry eye in the house

AT THE MOVIES

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

Beaches is not an easy movie to review.

If I describe how I really felt about this film, I'll seem too mean to live. I was tapping my feet and checking my watch every few minutes during the last 20 minutes of the film. The rest of the audience was in tears. What follows is my view of the film and does not represent general opinion.

Bette Midler plays C.C. Bloom, a talented singer from the Bronx who achieves success despite incredibly vulgar shows and dreadful clothes. (Gee, I wonder how they thought of that character). Barbara Hershey is Hilary Whitney, a poor little rich girl from San Francisco. The two meet as children on the boardwalk in Atlantic City. They don't spend much time together, but they start corresponding, and after nearly 10

years they finally see each other again.

The film follows the two women through failed marriages, falling-outs, children, and all the other phases of life, including death. Naturally a lot of these scenes take place on the beach. I would have to say the ocean scenery was my favorite part of the movie.

Beaches is advertised as a real tearjerker, because Hilary develops a heart problem and spends 30 or 40 minutes dying. For me this is part of the problem; I don't like films where a character dies a long drawn-out death, especially when I consider it unnecessary. That is the cheapest way to draw tears, and I always dislike it unless it is very well done.

Basically Beaches is a remake of

Terms of Endearment, only not as well acted, written, or directed. I really liked Terms of Endearment, so I'm not as hard-hearted as I sound. However, Debra Winger, Shirley MacLaine, and Jack Nicholson gave us real people. Hershey, and especially Midler, give us caricatures.

C.C. Bloom is just an overblown Bette Midler, and I wouldn't call that acting. Hershey is beautiful, noble, and bright. I liked her acting better, except for her lengthy demise. That just reminded me of All MacGraw in Love Story; a film I never want to think of again.

I saw nothing new in Beaches, every scene seemed all too familiar to me. There are some funny moments, mostly supplied by Arthur, the Great Dane.

Entertainment

Midler's voice is in great shape. Generally though, I think the film needed a better script and massive editing. There are too many false endings and it seemed it would never stop.

Obviously I did not like Beaches. However, as I stated before, this is not the general opinion. If you like 'tearjerkers' you'll love this film. If forced sentiment bores you, try something else.

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