

Working girl works

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

Working Girl has six Oscar nominations, including Best Picture.

Directed by Mike Nichols, this is an old-fashioned movie about a nice secretary who triumphs over her barracuda boss. It is an enjoyable film, rather light and fluffy, with an excellent cast.

But after all the nominations I found myself sitting there, thinking - is that it? Isn't this kind of, well, flimsy and superficial? I think the answer is, well, yes. Keeping that in mind, Working Girl is worth the watching. Just don't expect anything terribly new.

Melanie Griffith plays a pretty secretary of working class origins

AT THE MOVIES

with ambitions to be more. Her friends, her boyfriend, are all anchored in that pleasantly predictable life, but Tess McGill wants more. Her new female boss, Katherine Parker, (Sigourney Weaver) seems to be just the person to help her. For once Tess doesn't have to fight off sleazy advances. Katherine offers her advice on dress. Katherine tells her to bring her ideas in to her. Katherine steals her ideas.

When Parker breaks her leg on a skiing trip, Tess finds out about the theft and sets about taking her own

back. This leads her into a romance with Jack Trainer (Harrison Ford), the man Katherine intends to marry. Although everything that follows in this film is predictable, it is not annoyingly so.

Despite its familiarity, this movie works because of the characters and the acting. Melanie Griffith, Sigourney Weaver, and Joan Cusack have all received Oscar nominations. Harrison Ford is fine, but this is very much a woman's movie in terms of the good parts. It is also a good way to learn how not to dress if you want to fast-track it. Joan Cusack deserves an award just for putting up with the eyeshadow her character, Cynthia, wears.

Entertainment

Griffith is always interesting to watch because although pretty, she is not conventionally so. Weaver is a far better looking woman, but Griffith never seems to look the same way twice. Soft-spoken and almost bimbo-ish (I know that's not a word) she makes us believe that Tess is not anybody's fool, despite her appearance. I enjoyed her performance, although I would be amazed if she won the Oscar for best actress.

Sigourney Weaver is delightful as Katherine Parker, a woman of breeding, taste, intelligence, and no ethics. Weaver is completely convincing in her boundless ego

and conniving capacities. Joan Cusack does a good job as best friend Cynthia, a secretary with horrendous hair, make-up, and accent. Harrison Ford looks a little thin and perhaps not as good-looking as he ages. But his character is not very well developed - it is not an actor's picture.

I always like Mike Nichols' films, and Working Girl is no exception. This is a fine movie, but not an outstanding one as far as I'm concerned. It makes the viewer feel good, and has a satisfying ending. That alone makes it a show worth paying for.

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