

# Love, deceit examined in new movie

FILMETER



ROBERT DIMATTEO

By Robert DiMatteo

In Movie Theaters

**SEX, LIES, AND VIDEOTAPE (R)** "Psychodrama" began as a form of therapy in which patients could safely act out their anxieties. The result was an emotional nakedness that proved influential to dramatists and filmmakers hoping to plumb new levels of psychological depth. At its worst, though, psychodrama has come to imply a talky, self-indulgent, heavy-handed emotionalism.

That's why Steve Soderbergh's first film is such a surprise — a dark comedy of manners about the fates of four people in Baton Rouge. Shot for only \$1.2 million, the movie has a stripped-down look and abounds in the sort of intense, slightly awkward conversations that sound too real to be scripted. (Actually, they were partly improvised.) Emotionally direct and unflinching, it might be called a psychodrama — but it's a psychodrama fulfilled.

The story is elemental, for all its complications. Free-floating Graham (James Spader) returns to Louisiana, where he visits his former roommate John (Peter Gallagher), now a yuppie lawyer, and John's somewhat puritanical wife Ann (Andie MacDowell). John is having a clandestine affair with Ann's sister Cynthia (Laura San Giacomo), and Ann feels neglected, though she doesn't know why. Soon she's talking to Graham, who confesses to her that he is impotent: He can only gain physical pleasure by watching his taped interviews with women who confess their sexual habits. Ever interested in a new man, Cynthia becomes the latest subject for Graham's probing camera. Soon Ann, too, submits to Graham's interviewing prowess.

Because of its simplicity, the movie depends upon its actors to an extraordinary degree. They all come through with fresh, idiosyncratic performances. McDowell is a revelation as the sensitive, discontented Ann. As Cynthia, Laura San Giacomo almost steals the picture with her irresistible taunting humor and husky-voiced sexiness. In the sketchiest, least sympathetic role, Peter Gallagher nevertheless creates a three-dimensional philanderer. And Spader, whose performance won him the best actor award at Cannes, is so daringly on his own wavelength that he may strike some people as mannered.

Soderbergh has said that "video is a way of distancing ourselves and cutting ourselves off, anesthetizing our responses." On the surface, his film can be read as anti-video — perhaps even a bit moralistic. But it may say something a little different than Soderbergh himself realizes: Video is not the enemy, but how we use it. Video helps Graham heal himself as much as it destroys him. And, through the sexy, unrepentant character of Cynthia, the movie transcends any moralism. This is a debut film to treasure. **GRADE: ★★½**

New Home Video

**COUSINS (PG-13)** Paramount. As remakes go, this Americanization of the '70s French comedy "Cousin, Cousine" is not too bad. This new version comes across like a slightly hipper, saucier version of an Alan Alda film. It's warmhearted with a vengeance, risqué with a constant edge of lyrical cuteness.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**HOLLYWOOD Video**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 HOURS  
 Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 12:00-9:00  
 Friday 12:00-10:00  
 Saturday 10:00-10:00  
 Sunday 10:00-9:00  
**\$1.99** Includes NEW RELEASES and EA. WEEKENDS  
 Returns 5 p.m. Next Day  
**873-1022**  
 360 Guelph St., Unit 51A  
 KNOLCREST CENTRE  
 Georgetown  
 \*\*\*\*\*

# "Sassy" Bonnie Raitt has lived her own blues music

By DIAHANN NADEAU  
 Herald Special

Veteran blues slide-guitarist Bonnie Raitt played the International Showplace at Canada's Wonderland on Aug. 28. A woman with a past, a great voice, and a sassy attitude ('I ain't about nothing if not about attitude'), Raitt gave a rollicking performance, backed by an excellent five-piece band.

Raitt is simply one of the most interesting women in rock/pop. Unapologetic, beautiful, talented, and funny, she makes sex kittens like Madonna and Paula Abdul look silly and boring. (Or even sillier and boring than they already do.) Raitt has lived her music, and a lot of that music is blues.

Songs ranged from older material such as her bluesy rendition of Del Shannon's Runaway. (we've been listening to Al Green'), and Sippie Wallace's Woman Be Wise to new material from her latest album, Nick of Time. The latter tunes are marvelous, including the beautiful reggae-influenced Have a Heart, written by Bonnie Hayes, Cry on

My Shoulder, John Hiatt's Thing Called Love, and Love Letter.

Raitt is a great guitarist and her band underscored her abilities. Particularly outstanding were former Buckingham Marty Grebb on keyboards and soprano sax, and Johnny Lee Schell on guitar, trombone, and bass. Raitt did a couple of songs alone with Schell, who is a perfect foil for her. Raitt is generous in giving other musicians a lot of limelight and a great deal of credit.

The International Showplace is smaller and more intimate than Kingswood, but one has to sit on benches without backs. An under-capacity crowd attended the concert, but those who were there were fans and loved every moment. Raitt has always been on the edge of the big time and has never quite broken through. It is a mystery to me how someone who began playing back in 1967, released her first critically acclaimed album in '71, and has such an enor-

mous talent can still be a well-kept secret.

Her two encores included Nick of Time about growing older, (Raitt talked about licking her problems and being healthy and alive), River of Tears, dedicated to Lowell George, Paul Butterfield, and Richard Manuel, friends who did not make it through, and an exquisite version of John Prine's Angel, a country flavored tune that brought some of the audience to tears. Raitt herself seemed overcome at the end of that one.

Bonnie Raitt is a terrific performer and should not be missed next time around. Her between-

song patter is delicious, and almost worth the price of admission alone.

However, with her voice and guitar and fascinating repertoire she could never say a word and still blow many musicians out of the water.

## GEORGETOWN CINEMAS 235 GUELPH STREET — 873-1999

CINEMA 1

2nd SMASH WEEK



"TWO THUMBS UP FOR 'PARENTHOOD!'"  
 —SISKEL & EBERT

STEVE MARTIN  
**Parenthood**  
*It could happen to you.*

IMOSINE

A UNIVERSAL RELEASE

14 ADULT ACCOMPANIMENT

Evenings at 7:00 & 9:15 p.m. Sat. & Sun. Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

CINEMA 2

3rd GREAT WEEK!

A JOHN HUGHES FILM  
**JOHN CANDY**

He's crude. He's crass. He's family.

Evenings at 7:00 & 9:15 p.m.

Matinee Sat. & Sun. at 2:00 p.m.



**Uncle Buck**

A UNIVERSAL RELEASE

"UNCLE BUCK" AMY MADIGAN

PRODUCED BY JOHN HUGHES AND TOM JACOBSON

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOHN HUGHES

PARENTAL GUIDANCE

CINEMA 3

NOW PLAYING!

THE **ABYSS**



8:00 p.m. Show Only on Wed. & Thurs.

PARENTAL GUIDANCE

\$3.50 TUESDAYS EVERY WEEK

PASSWORD This Week's Password Is THURSDAYS "UNDERWATER ADVENTURE"

**YELLOW CAB HALTON HILLS**  
 24 HOUR SERVICE  
 SERVING HALTON HILLS  
  
 Airport Service • Parcel Delivery  
**873-2527**  
 Corner of Maple Ave. & Trafalgar Rd.

**AFTER FIVE**  
  
 THINGS TO DO PLACES TO GO  
 The McGibbon Hotel  
 FOR YOUR LISTENING AND DANCING PLEASURE!  
 79 MAIN ST. S.  
**877-3388**

**Club 2000**  
 THE MOST TALKED ABOUT DANCE CLUB AROUND!  
 RIVIERA CENTRE  
 530 Guelph Street  
 P.O. Box 64 (416) 840-3251  
 Norval, Ont. L0P 1K0 (416) 873-0437

**The McGibbon Hotel**  
 79 Main St. S. Georgetown 877-3388  
 We are now air-conditioned  
**BUFFET EVERY THURSDAY & FRIDAY**  
 SERVED 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

• Roast Beef	• Mashed Potatoes	• Assorted Pies
• Baked Ham	• Home Fries	• Assorted Squares
• Beef Steak	• Hot Vegetables	• Lemon Surprise
	• English Trifle	• Tea & Coffee

SUPER SALADS

• Tossed Salad	• Rice	• Bean	• Ham	• Cole Slaw
• Potato	• Mushroom	• Ambrosial	• Egg	• Veggie Trays
• Macaroni	• Pasta	• Chick Pea	• Jellied	• Pickle Trays

**SPECIAL PRICE ONLY \$6.50 INCLUDING TAX**

LIVE MUSIC  
 IT'S PARTY TIME!  
 WITH  
**ROUTE 66**  
 THIS THURS. - FRI. - SAT.  
 BANQUET HALL AVAILABLE

**Exchange Tavern**  
**DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS**  
 LIC. PATIO  
 Across From GO Station  
 37 King St., Georgetown  
**877-3541**

**VIDEO PLUS**  
 West of Georgetown Fruit Market  
**"BRING HOME A STAR" THIS WEEK**

- ★ JACKNIFE
- ★ SKIN DEEP
- ★ DREAM A LITTLE DREAM
- ★ JANUARY AN
- ★ THE EMISSARY

134 Guelph St., Unit B  
 Georgetown, Ontario 877-4260

**ALOHA BBQ**  
**DELICIOUS ROTISSERIE STYLE BAR-B-QUE CHICKEN**  
 232 GUELPH ST.  
**873-1646(7)**