Look who's cute now

AT THE MOVIES

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

A movie told from a baby's point of view, with Bruce Willis doing the kid's voice, John Travolta playing a taxi driver/babysitter and Kirstie Alley looking for a father for her child - sounds like a recipe for terminal cuteness you say? Well, Look Who's Talking is very cute, but not terminally so.

Anti-abortionists should love the first half hour of this film, where baby Mikey is speaking in the womb before mommy Molly (Alley) even knows she's pregnant. Daddy is married lover Albert (George Segal), a selfish pig who has a million reasons for not leaving his wife. ("I can't leave her while she's bulimic.")

Molly discovers Albert with another woman (not his wife) while out shopping, and goes into labor. In comes James (Travolta), a taxi driver who has watched too many car chase scenes, who takes her to the hospital and stays with her through her ordeal. He ends up becoming her friend and Mikey's sitter, much to the child's delight.

After a while Molly decides Mikey needs a father and starts looking for the right candidate. Poor Molly goes through some of the worse dates ever seen in the movies - there aren't a lot of decent, unmarried, heterosexual men out there in New York City these days. Molly finds this out pretty quickly.

Throughout these trying times James is always there, and of course Molly doesn't see him as a good candidate - he's not a businessman. Naturally they end up together; from the start it was obvious to everybody but Molly.

John Travolta is really good (surprise!) as James. Even the hundreds of moviegoers who refer to him as John Revolta will be impressed. Kirstie Alley is a pleasure to watch, and Molly is a lot less ditzy than the Rebbecca character on Cheers. Bruce Willis manages not to nauseate, which is a miracle, considering his turn as the baby's voice on that memorably awful episode of Moonlighting.

Olympia Dukakis is totally wasted as Molly's mom. Anyone off the street could have played this tedious role. Abe Vigoda does a weird turn as James' grandfather. George Segal is the perfect married lover, an inconsiderate jerk who thinks only of himself - "I'm going through my selfish phase," he tells Molly when she finds him with a new lover. You know the selfish phase has lasted his entire life. Segal is certainly convincing.

There are a lot of laughs in Look Who's Talking. The story is such a dreadfully cute idea that it can scare off a lot of people. But on the whole this is a good movie, a funny one. Make sure you stay for the credits, until the screen goes black behind the listings. There's a little surprise beyond the closing scene.

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