

'Loose and fast' in Beverly Hills

Entertainment

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

Scenes From The Class Struggle in Beverly Hills: This is a very funny, wild, and raunchy film, starring the lovely Jacqueline Bisset as a Beverly Hills widow entertaining a house full of guests.

Claire (Bisset) is recently widowed, but her nasty husband Sidney (Paul Mazursky) won't admit defeat, or death, and comes back to torment her. But that's the least of her worries. Her best friend and neighbor, Lisabeth (Mary Woronov) is moving in for the weekend while her mansion is being fumigated (to erase all traces of her rotten ex-husband, a millionaire gynecologist) and brings her son, her brother and his new bride, and her salacious, sex-crazed servant, Frank.

Frank is bisexual and makes a bet with Juan, Claire's good-looking servant; they are to try to bed one another's employer. If Juan wins, he will receive \$5,000 to pay off a loan shark. If Frank wins, he'll win Juan (a one-time offer).

The house party is rounded out by Claire's 17-year-old daughter, a doctor friend named Moe, his Cairn Terrier, and Lisabeth's ex. Everyone lusts over someone else, and nobody lusts over the right person. No one ends up alone on this hanky panky weekend; lust is mistaken for love and nobody has any morals to speak of, which is what makes this movie so much fun.

The cast is excellent: Ed Begley Jr. is Lisabeth's brother Peter, the abundantly sexy Arnetia Walker is his bride, Ray Sharkey is the disreputable Frank, Robert Beltran is the honorable Juan, and Wallace Shawn is hilarious as the smarmy Dr. Sarian, the cheating gynecologist. This is a truly outrageous film, not for the very young or the uptight. It is directed by Paul Bartel, the man who made Eating Raoul (he plays Moe in this

AT THE MOVIES

film). If you like your comedy loose and fast and your relationships complex, *Scenes From The Class Struggle in Beverly Hills* is your movie.

Say Anything: This film is a complete contrast to "Scenes"; it's quiet, charming, low-key, and totally innocent. John Cusack plays Lloyd Dobler, a teenager who has a crush on the brainiest girl in school, the pretty Diane Court (Ione Skye). They have just graduated and Diane is going off to Europe on an important fellowship. No one believes Diane would go out with Lloyd - he's just not brilliant enough, but she does and they fall in love.

The fly in the ointment is Diane's father (John Mahoney), who wants his daughter to go off to Europe without regrets. He's also being investigated by the IRS. Diane is torn between her boyfriend and her father, who is her best friend and someone she can "say anything" to.

Say Anything is not a complex film, but it is very likeable and charming. Cusack is appealing, as is Skye. This is a movie depicting the best in teenagers, the best of teenagers. On the surface it doesn't sound promising, but it works well. It's just not riotously funny or exciting, but it has a lot of merit. There is a quiet sense of humor and it's nice to see teenagers being treated as people, not just cliches and stereotypes.

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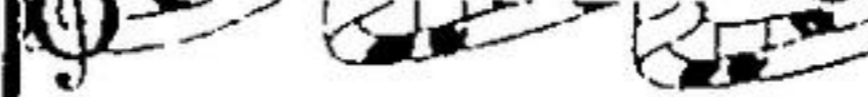
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