

Martin movie plot is slow, but leaves you smiling

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

What if the FBI had a wild and crazy guy in the witness protection program, who was kind of a pathological liar and thief, but in the nicest way, and transported him from the Italian subculture in New York City to suburban Northern California?

That's the premise of My Blue Heaven, Herbert Ross' latest directorial effort, starring Steve Martin and Rick Moranis. Light-hearted and a little loopy, My Blue Heaven is a pleasant film, not headed for any awards, but worth viewing nonetheless.

Martin plays Vinnie, a low-level Mafia crook who turns state witness and is trucked off to Northern California to hide until the trial. His wife leaves him within minutes of arrival, he gets bored quickly, and in days is diving back into his old ways, stealing a car and some liquor. Hannah Stubbs, the district attorney (Joan Cusack), doesn't buy his wildly improvised explanations, and he is rescued by agent Barney Coopersmith (Moranis). These two provide the sane foil to Vinnie, fighting over his body - Stubbs wants him in jail, Coopersmith needs him in New York. Vinnie just

wants to make a living and have a good time. And maybe match up these two squares.

The plot takes a while to get off the ground, moving far too slowly at first. However, as the movie progresses, the situations become funnier, and Vinnie becomes more endearing, less grating. His incredible lies combined with an extraordinary "joie de vivre" drag Stubbs and Coopersmith into his orbit, loosening them up a little, making them more human, and happier.

Martin plays it heavy as Vinnie; there is nothing subtle in his performance. He relies on his facial expressions for a lot of his laughs - Martin has always been good at physical comedy. Moranis plays his usual schmuck, a nerdy short guy who needs to learn to have fun. Joan Cusack is the one who brings the movie to life; she outshines the others in her role as the straight, repressed Hannah, a woman whose footwear is the perfect expression of her dull, tight, stodgy life. Her performance has more shadings, more underplayed

humor.

Other actors include lovely Melanie Mayron as a cop who falls hard for Vinnie, and Carol Kane as the kewpie doll who marries him (Kane is vastly underused here - she has almost no screen time, which is a terrible waste). William Hinkley brings his lizard voice and wrinkled face to the role of another turncoat Mafia crook - it seems this little town is rife with government witnesses.

My Blue Heaven takes what can be an incredibly traumatic situation and plays it strictly for laughs. The plot never intends for a second to reflect reality - Vinnie is the worst person on the face of the earth at hiding himself. There is a slightly disjointed feel to the film, and it does take a little too long to take off. On the whole though, My Blue Heaven leaves you smiling and humming, and features a terrific soundtrack.

Choral Society season is fast approaching

It's "back-to-work" time for the Georgetown Choral Society, as the new season approaches fast. Committee work has already begun, as the executive puts the plans together to try and make the 1990-1991 season as successful and exciting as last year, which you will all recall, ended with a musical tour of Holland.

The new executive comprises of the President, Bill Hyde; Vice-President, Sid Miedema; Secretary, Jerry Numan; Treasurer, Sandra Patey, and Past-President, Barb Kozler. An initial planning meeting was held recently, and although summer vacations restricted attendance to three of the executive plus Publicity Chairperson Maureen Burgoyne, a good head start was made.

The Committee and the general membership are pleased to welcome Dale Wood back for another season as Director. All are agreed that following the fantastic level attained by the Georgetown Choral Society, in conjunction with the Achill Choral Society during the European concert tour, everything possible will be done to work even harder and continue the growth in the future.

Difficult as it is, at this time of the year to think of September and the Fall season, it has to be done. Anyone interested in joining (or re-joining) this friendly, dedicated group of choristers, all intent on achieving a high level of competence in the execution of beautiful and exciting music, should consider joining the Georgetown Choral Society.

Our first meeting of the season will be our rehearsal on Monday, September 3, so feel free to come out and join us at 7:30 p.m. at the Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown. All you need to bring with you is your best singing voice!

The Choral Society fully appreciates the dedicated work of the members of our Library Committee. These three ladies, Debbie Snook, Pat Grasby and Lynn Purdy, have the onerous task of first making sure that everyone has the music for each concert, and then ensuring that it is all collected and filed at the end of the concert. Their work does not end there. Often the GCS rents music from other choirs, which the three source, care for, file and return for

future use. All this additional work for three members who are already very busy people. Debbie has a young family to keep her occupied, Pat is the receptionist at the Georgetown Medical Centre, and Lynn works at Sheridan College.

Over the months, we hope to introduce you to several of the other members of the Choral Society and the work they do behind the scenes in addition to singing.

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