

Entertainment

Video Reviews

Thriller and erotic comedy

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

After *Dark My Sweet*: Jason Patric, Rachel Ward and Bruce Dern star in this suspenseful film noir based on the Jim Thompson novel. Patric plays Kevin Collins, a retired boxer on the lam from a mental institution. He is befriended by the beautiful Fay Anderson (Ward) and her mysterious friend Uncle Bud (Dern) and given a home. He is also enlisted in their scheme to kidnap a wealthy young boy.

Things go quickly awry and the scheme begins to unravel at an alarming rate. However, the suspense doesn't stop at the kidnapping - it is doubled by the suspicion that Fay and Bud are out to double cross Collins. Will he outsmart them? Is the lovely Fay as bad as she appears? Will the child die?

After Dark My Sweet is a very neat little thriller, a steamy crime story with violence, sex, and eroticism. Patric is extremely convincing as the wild-man Collins, at once pathetic and terrifying, his hair uncombed, his

face unshaved, possessing only the most rudimentary living skills. Ward is gorgeous, sexy and oh-so-mysterious as Fay Anderson, a cagey widow. And Dern, as always, looks desperate, on the edge, ready to go made himself at any moment. If you're in the mood for a disturbing, unnerving hour and a half, give *After Dark My Sweet* a try. You may regret it, but not because it's bad.

The Lemon Sisters: On the other end of the movie spectrum is this light and erratic comedy about three girlhood friends trying to get through life, love, and the universe in the kingdom of kitsch, Atlantic City.

Diane Keaton, Carol Kane, and Kathryn Grady star as Eloise, Franki and Nola, the members of the singing group the Lemon Sisters, a quaint little lounge act that loses its weekly booking when the lounge/restaurant closes. Changes aplenty come along (too many for the movie as a matter of fact) and the women find their lives turned around.

The problems here are manifold: Keaton's character is

just too eccentric; Eloise is so flighty and haphazard that it becomes irritating. Nola is a good central character, and Kane's Franki is very entertaining. (Watch for her performance of *Rawhide*.) Yet the film lacks cohesiveness - it flies in too many directions, and it is just too slight in the end. It is also rather boring; I found myself reading while I watched it, I just couldn't keep my attention on the screen.

A good cast makes *Lemon Sisters* almost worth watching, with Aidan Quinn, Elliott Gould, and Ruben Blades rounding out the actors. There are also some interesting scenes from the heyday of Atlantic City. The *Lemon Sisters* isn't bad, it just ho-hum. It's unfortunate, given the crew involved - one would have hoped for better.

A note: For those Maria Muldaur fans out there - Maria will be appearing with Amos Garret at the Horseshoe Tavern on Wednesday night, April 17. For tickets call 598-4753. The Horseshoe, a pleasant venue, is at 370 Queen St. in Toronto.



Invitation to the "Forum"

Georgetown Globe Productions will offer its spring presentation, 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum' at John Elliott Theatre, located in the Halton Hills Cultural Centre on Church Street in Georgetown, May 2 through May 11. Last Sunday, the cast of the production went through a parade of

costumes and obviously felt very comfortable, not only in their costumes, but also in their roles. Pictured above, (left to right), Hysterium (Gord McLeod), Philia (Elizabeth Griffin), Pseudalius (Joe Del Guidice) and a soldier (Doug MacDougal). (Herald photo)

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