

Entertainment

Movie Review

'Only the Lonely' - flawed but charming

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special
ONLY THE LONELY

Another John Candy/John Hughes collaboration, Only The Lonely gives us a comic situation - Candy lives with an overbearing mother and dates a mortician's daughter, and instead of playing for laughs the movie aims for pathos.

What is surprising is that quite often it achieves it, and not in an annoying fashion. Only The Lonely isn't as funny as you want it to be, but it has a certain charm that overrides its many flaws.

Candy plays Danny, a cop who drives the wagon (carrying prisoners, dead bodies, etc.) with his partner (James Belushi); a man whose entire existence revolves around his mother. Tied to her by his neurotic visions of her death, he is unable to live his own life. Mom, (a still beautiful Maureen O'Hara) is as possessive as the mother-in-law

of any woman's nightmares, and sees nothing wrong in keeping Danny a bachelor. After all, he's only 38, and wasting away to nothing to boot.

Mom's world is thrown in a turmoil when Danny meets Theresa (Ally Sheedy), a Sicilian (oh no), the daughter of a mortician and the corpse make-up woman to boot. Shy and sheltered, Theresa quickly falls for Danny's self-deprecating charm. What follows is Danny's painful and often funny struggle to leave his mom.

There are times when the plot seems headed for a big laugh, but somehow it is short-circuited. Some scenes don't work and don't add anything to the film (the wedding scene was unnecessary to me). Most of the time though, there is a quiet, engaging feeling to the romance which helps the movie over the bad humps.

One of the things that makes the film work despite its rather

pathetic script is the acting.

Candy, O'Hara, and Sheedy are all irresistible. Candy is understated and sweet as the confused Danny, torn between the world he wants and the world he's used to. Sheedy is quiet and intense as Theresa, although Theresa's confrontation with Mom does not ring true to her character.

Maureen O'Hara, who hasn't made a movie in 20 years, is marvelous as the tough as nails, bigoted, mean-yet-admirable Rose.

This is not a sympathetic character, but one can't help liking Rose despite herself. Anthony Quinn is thoroughly charming as the Greek neighbor with a crush on her, and Jim Belushi is good as Danny's partner.

Only The Lonely isn't terrific, and it falls a little flat at times, but on the whole its good points outweigh the bad and the ending leaves you with a nice feeling.



Glen family barbeque

Make-up artist Jenny Barclay (left) tried to recreate on Jennifer Robertson's face what she created on Kara Edwards face (standing) while on-lookers waited their turn at the Glen Williams Public School family barbeque held last Monday

night. It was a fun night for kids, who, after eating hamburgers and hot dogs, could get their faces painted, get a balloon creation or watch a magician perform tricks. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

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