

Movie Review

Identity crisis plagues Kathleen Turner vehicle

By LISABETH JACKSON
Herald Special

Kathleen Turner is V.I. Warshawski, private investigator and tough lady in lifestyle and lingo. She can hold her own against Chicago thugs, and still have time for a bubble bath and a lover.

"V.I. Warshawski" can be reviewed on two levels; the feminist one, in which it falls flat, and the enjoyment one, in which it sometimes succeeds and sometimes fails.

It took three writers to transfer the novel heroine to the screen, but her character is too paradoxical to be the really good role feminist role model that I'm sure she is intended to be. Neither V.I. nor the film fulfill my ideals of a

woman working within - and beating - the patriarchal system. Warshawski is a detective from the school of hard knocks, but she just has to love wearing high heels, and have a hidden compassion for children to reassure us that she is still 'feminine.' (otherwise, she'd be a guy, right?).

No one likes a wise-ass, and the first half of the film, which, incidentally, takes too long introducing both plot and character, carries this tone to the max. And the men in this movie don't fare well at all; it doesn't help the humanist cause any by portraying men just as badly as women usually are portrayed in a Hollywood film - it's simply reversing the stereotype. The men in "V.I. Warshawski" are one or more of the following: cruel, shallow, dorky, womanizing, unfaithful, unpleasant, violent, and easily fooled by a woman in a low-cut dress.

The one possible exception is Bernard "Boom Boom" Grafalk, of the Chicago Blackhawks, and he gets killed off in the first twen-

ty minutes. His daughter, Kat, played by Angela Goethals, hires Warshawski to find out who murdered Boom Boom.

Kat is Warshawski in miniature, right down to the no-words-barred verbal expression. They make a good team, and have a battling camaraderie that is often enjoyable to watch.

Warshawski's plot is very linear; that is, it has one storyline and the movie follows it scene by scene in chronological order, rather than adding interesting diversions or points of view from other characters. This straightforward structure makes for, at times, a tiresome viewer experience.

"V.I. Warshawski" is not a totally unenjoyable movie, and Kathleen Turner is appealing on screen even if her character's actions and personality quirks seem out of character. But like V.I. Warshawski herself, the film suffers from an identity crisis in which it can't decide whether to be cute and funny, or intelligent and realistic.

Halton Cable updates

Viewers with stereo TV sets will find a new dimension added to their enjoyment of the American Arts and Entertainment network, and the Toronto-based MuchMusic video channel.

The number of subscriber-owned stereo sets is increasing rapidly prompting Halton Cable Systems to add the improved sound quality to the two popular stations. First Choice and Family Channel are already in stereo.

The enhanced sound will be available to the 86 per cent of customers who subscribe to the Valu-Pack, a special group of six satellite channels, which also includes the Sports Network, Nashville Network and Cable News network.

"It means that those who have stereo VCRs will now be able to save a programme and play it back in stereo at their leisure," said John Ellivier, the company's marketing manager. "Until now, there hasn't been a lot of call for stereo, but most new TVs sold now are stereo, and we want to be sure of meeting our customer's needs."

"Most of the off-air networks converted some time ago, and our existing equipment passes the signals very well. It's just the satellite audio processing that's a little different," Ollivier said, "People will notice a big difference, especially on A and E because their theatre, movie and concert productions are so much improved with stereo."

Customers requiring information or assistance in adjusting to the stereo broadcasts can call their cable company at 853-1270.

Agricultural museum fun and frolics day

Riders ages 6 to 18 and their ponies will be on site to entertain visitors of all ages as the Ontario Agricultural Museum presents "Kids, Ponies and Fun!" on Sunday, September 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Held in co-operation with "Touch 'n Go" Farm of Campbellville, this event will feature a variety of activities and demonstrations including pleasure, jumping and gymkhana divisions.

While at the museum enjoying this event, discover over 30 buildings and displays on the 32-hectare site. Costumed inter-

preters, farm animals, wagon rides and a gift shop will make your day in the country an enjoyable one.

To discover the Ontario Agricultural Museum, take Hwy. 401 to Milton exit 320 or 312 north and follow the signs. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is \$3.50 for adults, \$1.75 for youths (6-17 yrs.) or seniors, and \$8.50 per family.

If you're a fan of kids and horses, you will not want to miss this first-time event. Rain date for this event is September 2.

Feast your eyes on the skies

This summer, feast your eyes on the skies. You are invited to view the stars and planets at York University's Astronomical Observatory, in the Petrie Science Building, every Wednesday until the end of September, from 9-11 p.m. approx. Come enjoy telescope viewing (when the skies are clear), a celestial slide show, spectroscopy display and video presentation. To shoot the moon and photograph Saturn, bring your SLR camera. The camera lens must be detachable with a bayonet or screw mount-

ing to use the University's adaptors.

Large groups which would prefer a tour on a night other than Wednesday can often be accommodated. Call (416) 736-2100, ext. 7773 for details. Admission is free. York University is located at 4700 Keele Street in North York (Keele St. and Steeles Ave.) Due to construction, please use the Steeles Ave. entrances. For information about evening courses in astronomy and space science, call (416) 736-5802.

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