

Movie Review

Pure Luck is simple, light-hearted

By LISABETH JACKSON
Herald Special
Missing and feared kidnapped: One Valerie Highsmith, (Sheila Kelley), daughter of a wealthy businessman; young, blonde and unlucky enough to be the unluckiest woman in the world. She can have her luggage lost, her plane crash, her high heel break, and still find time in the day to fall off a balcony.

Solution: Recruit one Eugene Proctor, (Martin Short), accountant and all-round goof, who just happens to be the unluckiest man in the world, to find her.

The logical theory follows that, through pure luck, the accident-prone Proctor will naturally trace Valerie's footsteps and lead himself straight to her.

But, although Eugene is an old hand at bad luck, he is a novice at detective work, and needs an expert investigator to help him. Enter one Raymond Capenella (Danny Glover), man of logic and reason, believer in hard work and perseverance, and non-believer in good luck, bad luck, or any

kind of luck, however pure. Raymond is none too happy about being saddled with Eugene, whose never-ending misfortunes threaten to drag Raymond under, as well.

Martin Short is funny as Proctor, a loveable pain who looks slightly dazed from banging into doors one too many times, (he also looks like he's laughing at his own performance! Ah, well, who can blame him?). And we can easily sympathize with Glover as Capenella the straightman.

But if you expect a laugh a minute from this movie, you'll be disappointed. "Pure Luck" is a simple, light-hearted, almost Disney-ish film which totally relies on Short and Glover to come up with the laughs. They make a good effort but are bogged down by a rather slow and weak script. The story needs more characters and subplots to create diversions from Proctor and Raymond, instead of expecting them to carry a ninety-minute movie all by themselves.

"Pure Luck" actually feels like

a Canadian movie, being fairly low-budget, polite and understated, and afraid of being too outlandish for fear of making a spectacle of itself. Evidence of it's having been made in Canada, can, in fact, be spotted in the hotel in "Mexico" where a print of Quebec and Newfoundland is prominently displayed behind Glover's head!

"Pure Luck" ranks along with such movies as "Summer Rental" and "Summer School," which, even if they don't really stink, are just providers of light entertainment. While it will not top any "critic's choice" list, (although if Julia Roberts can get an Oscar nomination, Martin Short would be a shoe-in for a Lifetime Achievement Award), "Pure Luck" will probably be a top rental at the video store.

The summer box office season is over, and so is my term as your local movie reviewer, as I am returning to school. So long to all Herald readers and I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the year's movies!



Delightful clowns

Delightful and musical clowns combined to delight and excite children during children's day at the Georgetown Fall Fair. (Herald Photo)

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