

Entertainment



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Park School Public Speaking finals were held Tuesday morning. Winners from this level will go on to the Halton Hills Finals later this month. Those taking part in the competition were (from left)

Shaunna Fedora, Natasha Nalrawdah, second place speaker Alison Duby, first place Chris Hall, third place Chad Inglis, Topher Baker, and Jodi Hutzal.

Not Without My Oscar

Hollywood Beat

By DAVID GIAMMARCO



Yes, bolt the doors and board up the windows - another Sally "you really, really like me" Field movie is on the loose. The first gush of tears on her face and we're rendered helpless by her overacting powers. Only one thing could possibly save us: Bette Midler arriving on the scene for a bloodthirsty fight to the melodramatic finish, each one cancelling out the other and leaving the acting profession a better place. We can only wish.

The film is *Not Without My Daughter* and Field's overwrought attempts at really, really acting makes me think the film should be re-titled *Not Without My Oscar*.

Fields plays Betty Mahmoody, an American mother married to an Iranian born doctor (Alfred Molina). When her husband Moody decides to take the family on a vacation to Iran, Betty protests but reluctantly agrees. Arriving on the foreign soil, Moody is greeted with open arms by his relatives, as is the daughter Mahtob, but Betty is regarded with much disdain.

So when the family successfully persuades Moody into re-embracing Islam, he demands that Betty and Mahtob remain with him in Iran and never return to the U.S.

Held as a virtual prisoner by Moody and his family, Betty plans a daring escape out of war-torn Iran for her and her daughter in hopes of somehow getting back to the States.

To be honest, I liked *Not Without My Daughter* more than I thought I would. But keep in mind I went in with really low expectations. One of the faults of the film is the weak, shallow script. The other is Sally Field's performance which showcases her range of two emotions: whining/screaming/crying hysteria and mind-numbing congeniality. At many points in the film the audience broke into fits of laughter at the height of Field's ridiculous display. *Not Without My Daughter* would've been better suited as a TV movie of the week.

Out of ten, *Not Without My Daughter* rates a four.

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