

# Entertainment

A weekly guide for your night out.

## Markham Movie Scene

# Studio 80 tells it like it is

By TOM NEWALL  
 Star 80 is a shattering film. Directed by Bob Fosse, it is an uncompromising look at the all-too-brief life of Canadian Dorothy Stratten.  
 Brutally murdered by her husband Paul Snider following her fame as Playmate of the Year in 1930, Dorothy emerges as an innocent caught up in the whirl of success, someone whose maturity is unable to save her from the passions of a tormented love affair.

Fosse has taken an interesting and, I believe, brilliant perspective on all this by shifting the focus to examine Miss Stratten from Snider's point of view. Mariel Hemingway, as Dorothy, becomes a mirror and Eric Roberts as Paul Snider, becomes the star of the movie.  
 Fresh from King of the Gypsies, he is magnificent in the role and it is his image which haunts you long after the final credits roll.  
 Snider is pathetic and vulnerable.

appealing and repulsive in turn. The script exposes his character in all its ugliness and sleazy charm. One can understand Dorothy's interest and, later, her growing resistance to his overbearing, self important management.

The horrifying climax is predictable, the way charted with relentless precision as Dorothy's star rises, Snider's fades into insignificance.

The material could become maudlin and provide an excuse for gratuitous violence and sex. It doesn't. Fosse coordinates a superb team to present a world of magazine publication, theatre, night clubs and films which oozes tawdriness, sleaze, manipulation and menace. The cast is flawless.

Roger Rees, fresh from the lead in Nicholas Nickleby, as Dorothy's film director, projects the necessary warmth and concern, Carroll Baker, in an all-too-rare screen appearance, is memorable as Dorothy's frightened, lonely mother; and Cliff Robertson is believable as Hugh Hefner.

Miss Hemingway is lovely, tall, willowy and virtuous, certainly an appropriate girlfriend. Eric Roberts, however, carries the day, from the first shots in the mirror as he pumps iron, practices his delivery, greases his hair and flexes his muscles to the finale, blood drenched, brutalized and depraved.

Ralph Burns' musical accompaniment, whether it's Billy Joel at the high school prom or YMCA at a wet shirt meat market, is everything film scoring is designed to accomplish. Sven Nykvist, Ingmar Bergman's photographer for 20 years; provides a spectacular visual backdrop to highlight every mood. Fosse brings it all together in brilliant fashion.

I've praised his dancing in Pyjama Game and Damn Yankees, his choreography in Chicago and Dancin', his direction in Cabaret and All That Jazz. Here he choreographs once again. Every move is calculated and the cast seems part of a chorus line, moving to create the moods required.

Watch Snider cheer on the mud wrestlers, Dorothy appear in her first long white dress, the dancer at Hefner's 'pad', the loading of the murderous rifle in the final minutes and you'll see a master director at work.

That Terms of Endearment and Silkwood will likely sweep the 1983 film awards is a statement of their calibre certainly. Make no mistake, though Star 80 is an equally fine film but I suspect it strikes too close to home.

There is no compromising, no satisfying rainbow and Fosse has stripped the veneer from the world of sex and glamour manufactured for North American consumption. It's not likely to appeal to Academy voters - the subject matter is too offensive, but that is not to say it is not a powerful film experience.

If you are at all serious about the state of the entertainment industry and the current discussion of pornography and exploitation sweeping North America, you can't afford to miss it. Star 80 is now showing at the Markville Cinema complex.

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