Prizewinner takes poignant look at family life in '50s

The Prizewinner of Defiance, Ohio

Starring Julianne Moore and Woody Harrelson

Directed by Jane Anderson based on Terry Ryan's novel.

In theatres now

A charming, retro, touchy-feely and often deeply moving story, based on the true-to-life memoirs of a woman who raised 10 children, put up with an abusive and alcoholic husband and found deep and happiness.

In fact, her unquenchable happiness was the key to her power. Her writing skills were put to the test in jingle contests for TV and radio that paid off handsomely.

She was able to provide for her family when her husband could not.

In the '50s, contesting was a popular way for women to escape the humdrum of their stay-at-home lives through poetry and limericks, with the chance to win big prizes and money.

One such woman was Evelyn Ryan, played by Julianne Moore, who seems to suit and love the '50s, as in *Far From Heaven*, now here.

Evelyn was a clever writer whose inner contentment made it easy for her to sail through life events that would have fractured anyone else.

She had to be strong with all those kids and a husband (Woody Harrelson) who drank away his jealousy and shame.

Her jingles won her cars, trips, appliances; all sold for cash that kept the family together and the mortgage paid.

The constant reminder of the wolf at the door was the milkman, who threatened her each week if she couldn't pay her bill.

She raised happy, devoted and smart kids who stood by her when she won a 10-minute shopping spree at a grocery store, helping her plan her attack with location maps, special requests ('Caviar! The best!') and oil for the grocery cart wheels.

It's a wonderfully interesting story that is inspiring, sad and sweet, but never insipid.

Ms Moore balances her infectious happiness with intelligence, while holding the film on her slim shoulders.

The husband, whose unintended cruelty is set in stark contrast to his sober good heart, is a hateful and pot-bellied dad to Evelyn.

Whimsical graphics and animation enrich the film, bringing pre-feminist '50s TV culture to life in ways that will have baby boomers waxing nostalgic for days to come.

There's a killer final scene that will take viewers by surprise and leaving 'em crying.

The Prizewinner was shot on location in Ontario in Paris, Grand Valley and Richmond Hill.

Film sells issues

This is not a Steve Martin comedy.

Rather than being funny and witty, as usual for a Mr. Martin piece, it is sad and melancholy.

It's an exceedingly well made movie and the characters ring true, but it's no comedy. It will make you think and come out of the theatre struggling with your own private version of the story.

Clare Danes plays Mirabelle, a gloves salesperson at Saks' Fifth Avenue in Beverly Hills.

Anne Brodie

On Movies

Shopgirl

Starring Steve Martin, Claire Danes, Jason Schwartzman

Directed by Anand Tucker based on Steve Martin's novel.

In theatres now

The job's lonely; she's bored and can't help but eye all the expensive items people buy in the fabled, upmarket store.

Each night, she goes home to her shabby, dismal apartment, where she dreams of better things and plays with her unseen cat.

One night while folding sheets at the local laundromat, she meets a man. Jeremy, (Jason Schwartzman), is a loveable but childlike twentysomething who's attracted to her.

An older man, played by Mr. Martin, drops by her counter soon after and buys the long, black gloves she recommends. He doesn't leave much of an impression.

The patient viewer will be rewarded with good answers to the questions. It's not such strange behaviour for someone to decree that there can be no future, while continuing to see someone who is clearly in love with them.

It's a wonderful experience, a low-key and rich experience that comes like a little present left on your stoop one night.

LOOK FOR

KITCHEN STUFF PLUS

Great Stuff! Great Prices!

4 Page Flyer in Today's Paper!

* delivered to select homes

KIA THE FASTEST GROWING AUTOMAKER IN THE WORLD

GET MORE EVENT

GREAT CLEAROUT OFFERS ON OUR REMAINING IN-STOCK 2005 VEHICLES

2005 SORENTO SUV

CRASH TEST RATING††

• 3.5 L V6 engine
• 4-wheel ABS
• 8-speaker CD stereo
• Front & side curtain airbags
• 4WD

LEASE FROM $279* PER MO./60 MOS. $0 SECURITY DEPOSIT

EX model shown† MSRP $29,995**

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY GET $500 FREE GAS◆ when you purchase a new 2005 Sorento

0% PURCHASE FINANCING$ UP TO 60 MONTHS ON SELECTED 2005 KIA VEHICLES

5·5·5 Total Care Coverage

TOTAL CARE OWNERSHIP COVERAGE
• 5-YEAR/100,000 KM WORRY-FREE COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY▼
• 5-YEAR/100,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY
• 5-YEAR/100,000 KM EXTRA CARE ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

KIA MOTORS The Power to Surprise™

On now for a limited time at a Kia Dealer near you or visit www.kia.ca for more details.

RIDE ON GRAD PROGRAM

Kia of Markham
29 Laidlaw Blvd., Markham, ON (905) 201-0083

*Leasing plans OAC provided by Kia Canada Financial Services. Available on 2005 Sorento LX MT (SR5515). Based on a 60 month lease rate of 2.62% and a down payment or trade equivalent of $4,950. First month's lease payment of $279 plus $1,295 delivery and destination, and a $350 acquisition fee, due upon delivery. Total lease obligation for the featured models based on an MSRP of $29,995 is $21,690 and the option to purchase at end of lease for $10,672.60 plus applicable taxes. Lease has 20,000 km/year allowance (other packages available) and $0.10/km for excess. **2005 Sorento MSRP from $29,995 and 2005 Sedona (SD7535) MSRP from $26,995. Licence, registration, Insurance, delivery and destination, and taxes are not included, unless otherwise stated. Prices subject to change without notice. Dealer may sell/lease for less. $0% purchase financing is available for a maximum of 48/60 months on selected 2005 vehicles. Purchase financing example: $10,000 at 0.0% purchase financing equals $208.33 per month for 48 months; C.O.B. is $0 for a total obligation of $10,000. Offer varies depending on vehicle model. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed, the term and down payment/trade. Other lease and finance options available. ^Offer for cash purchase only. Less $6,000 on MSRP of 2005 Sedona LX (SD7535). Certain restrictions may apply. †Featured models are not exactly as illustrated. Images contain available accessories. ††NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) test results. Visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ncap for full details. ◆Offer on purchase of any new 2005 Sorento. Offer valid until October 31, 2005 only. See your local participating Kia dealership for full details. ▼Kia's "Worry-Free Comprehensive" warranty covers most vehicle components against defects under normal use and maintenance conditions. Price, availability and specifications are subject to changes without notice. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.