

# Lots of tasty Toronto scenery in otherwise flat Sentinel

## THE SENTINEL

Starring Michael Douglas, Keifer Sutherland, Eva Longoria and Kim Basinger. Directed by Clark Johnson

It's a perfect film — perfectly formulaic, perfectly predictable and the ending is a perfect mess.

On the plus side, it's a kind of postcard from Toronto as the climactic third act takes place at city hall. Eagle-eyed audiences will notice bits and pieces of Hamilton, Sherway Gardens mall and a host of other local backgrounds.

That's the exciting part. And it's big on Can Con — Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Johnson in a cameo, the enduring Chuck Shamata, Train 48's Raoul Bhaneja and other familiar faces.

The names of the White House WASPs are amazingly homogenous — Ballentine, Breckenridge, Meriwether, Montrose, Overbrook. I thought I was watching a dramatization of the WASP Who's Who.

The film makes big noise about Ms Longoria playing an Hispanic agent, which is pointed out twice and is quite unnecessary. I don't blame Mr. Johnson, a veteran Toronto based actor and director. It's the script.

The story concerns a traitor in the ranks of the President's secret security detail who plans to have his boss assassinated with help of a drug cartel.



Anne Brodie

### On Movies

Suspicion falls on Mr. Douglas' character, Garrison, as he spends time with his shady "snitch" and in a cartel drop-off coffee shop. He is the only member of the security team to fail a compulsory polygraph.

Not only that, he's having an affair with the First Lady (Ms Basinger).

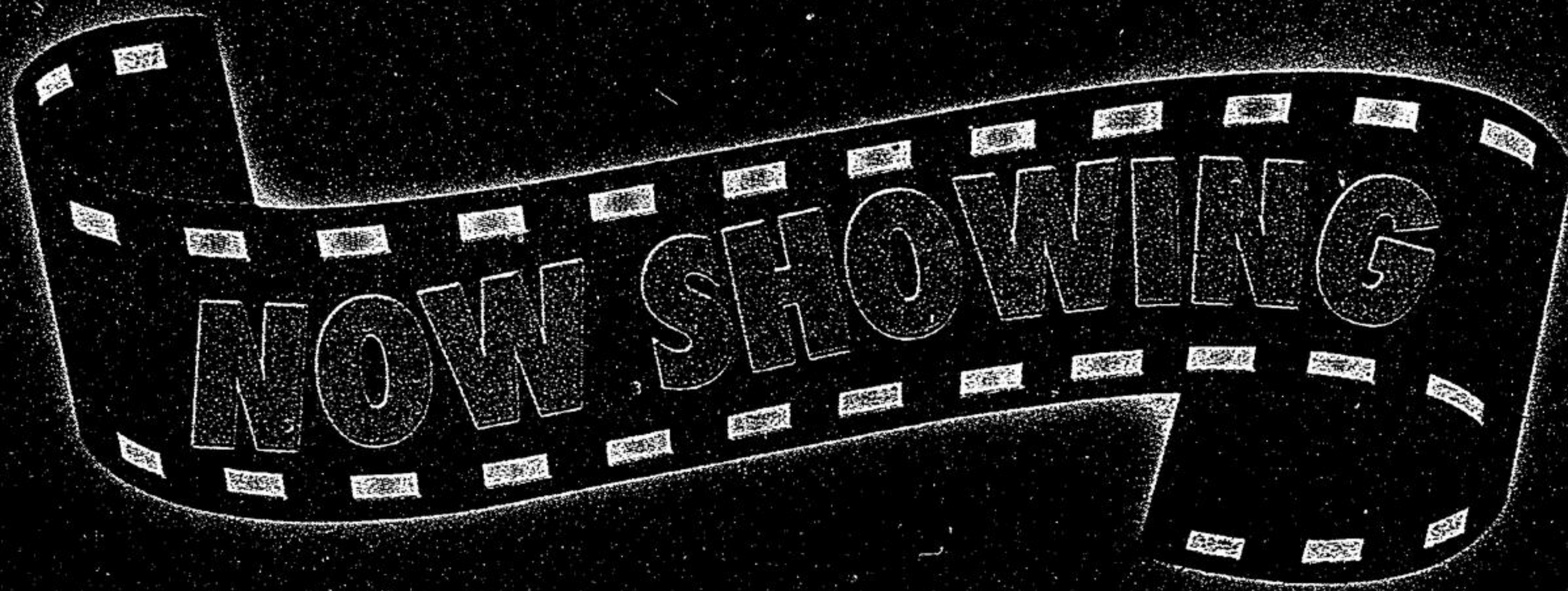
We don't have a lot of sympathy for him. We learn early on he ruined his friendship with fellow agent Breckenridge by hooking up with his wife and we are pleased to think he's the mole and he's in their crosshairs. But things are never as they seem.

*The Sentinel* rides merrily along for the first hour, offering a web of deceit and plenty of shocks and tension.

But it falls like a bag full of pancake batter when it really counts.



Keifer Sutherland (left) and Michael Douglas co-star in *The Sentinel*, a film with plenty of Toronto scenery, but a plot that falls apart like a bag of pancake batter, according to critic Anne Brodie. The story concerns a traitor in the ranks of the American president's secret security detail who plans to have his boss assassinated with the help of a drug cartel.



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