

'Terms of Endearment' touches the heart

By Don Strausburger

Once in a while, a film comes along that touches the heart of its entire audience in every possible way. The latest film of this type is **Terms of Endearment**. The film stars Debra Winger as the daughter of an over-possessive mother, played by Shirley MacLaine. Winger's character begins the movie spending the night before her wedding partying for the last time as a single woman. We immediately find out that her mother does not approve of the wedding. She goes through with the wedding and immediately

gets pregnant.

We then quickly pass through nine years and two more children in the next few minutes. After developing the relationships between family members, the story takes a highly surprising twist, bringing the fun in the early portion to a grinding halt.

The subplot involves one of the best performances of the motion picture year. The story features Jack Nicholson as a retired astronaut who lives next door to the mother. Nicholson and MacLaine trade early insults with flawless timing and convincing ease. Eventually, the couple decides to share a lunch date

which turns out to be a disaster. But in classic movie style, love conquers all and the couple becomes more involved.

Nicholson then becomes the strength provider for MacLaine as her life deteriorates before her eyes.

When the time rolls around for Oscar nominations, don't be surprised to see this film receive many bids. In the leading roll, Debra Winger finally proves that she can act and no longer should be allowed to waste her time in low-budget movies. The other leading candidate for nomination is Jack Nicholson. He again proves that he is one of the better

actors in Hollywood. Other nominations which should deservedly be gotten include Best Picture and Best Actor.

Terms of Endearment in only two hours takes a crowd through the emotional highs and lows of everyday life. The script gives the audience a chance to laugh, cry and most importantly, realize that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Even through the most emotional segment, the audience is led to believe that there is still hope for happiness.

After the traditional rush of Christmas movies, the best of the group by far is **Terms of Endearment**.



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