

MOVIE REVIEWS

Dances with Wolves deserves Oscar

John L. Berger
United Artists Theaters

"DANCES WITH WOLVES"

Orion Pictures
Starring Kevin Costner, Mary McDonnell, Graham Greene, and Rodney A. Grant
Directed by Kevin Costner
Produced by Kevin Costner and Jim Wilson
Music by John Barry
Rating * * * * (Perfect!)

"Dances with Wolves" has got to be the most incredible film of the year, and I will be VERY disappointed if it doesn't win the Academy Award for Best Picture.

"Dances with Wolves" takes place during the Civil War in the western frontier. Its main character is Union Lt. John J. Dunbar (Kevin Costner) who, after leading his troop to victory against the Confederate army, requests a position on the frontier and "wants to see the frontier...before it's gone." When he gets to his post he finds that it's deserted and in shambles. As he waits for his troops to arrive, he makes friends with a lone wolf which he names "Two Socks" because of the milky white markings on its forefeet.

What Dunbar finds instead of his troop is the Sioux Indians. After harrasing him twice by trying to steal his horse, Dunbar set out to "make a good impression" on the Sioux; so, he sets out to meet them. On the way he finds a lone Indian woman called "Stands with a Fist." She's actually white but was adopted by the Sioux after her family was killed during a Pawnee attack.

After finally making friends with the Indians, the Holy man of the tribe and Stands with a Fist's adopted father "Kicking Bird" (Graham Greene), names Dunbar "Dances with Wolves" because he saw him playing with Two Socks. Together they go on a buffalo hunt, which is an absolute cinematic masterpiece, and fight the Pawnee. During this whole time Dunbar discovers himself saying that "...as I hear my Sioux name...over and over, I have finally realized who I really am."

This movie is without question the best movie to appear in decades. The scenery of South Dakota is just extraordinary; the acting is superb; the directing is brilliant; the music is powerful and glorious at the same time; and the screen play is flawless! Yes, this movie is three hours long, but it is definitely worth the time and attention.

"Dances with Wolves" is definitely worth the time and attention. "Dances with Wolves" is destined to go into American movie history as one of the best films of all time.

"THE GRIFTERS"

Miramax Films
Starring John Cusack, Anjelica Huston and Annette Bening
Directed by Stephen Frears
Produced by Martin Scorsese, Robert A. Harris and Jim Painten
Music by Elmer Bernstein
Rating * 1/2

The one thing I can never understand about the popular movie critics is how they always acclaim the dumbest movies. "Cry Baby" is proof of that! "The Grifters," although not the dumbest, certainly does not deserve all of the praise that it's getting.

"The Grifters" centers around Roy (John Cusack), who is a short-deal con-artist, or a "grifter." In his life he has gotten a great deal of money by pulling a lot of his "hand is quicker than the eye" stunts. Anette Bening plays Moira, his lover and a past large-deal-con-artist who wants to become partners with him in more ways than one. Anjelica Huston is Lily, Roy's mother who bore him at

age 14 and who also played Oedipus Rex with him. She, too, is a con-artist, working for the mob by winning money at the horse track.

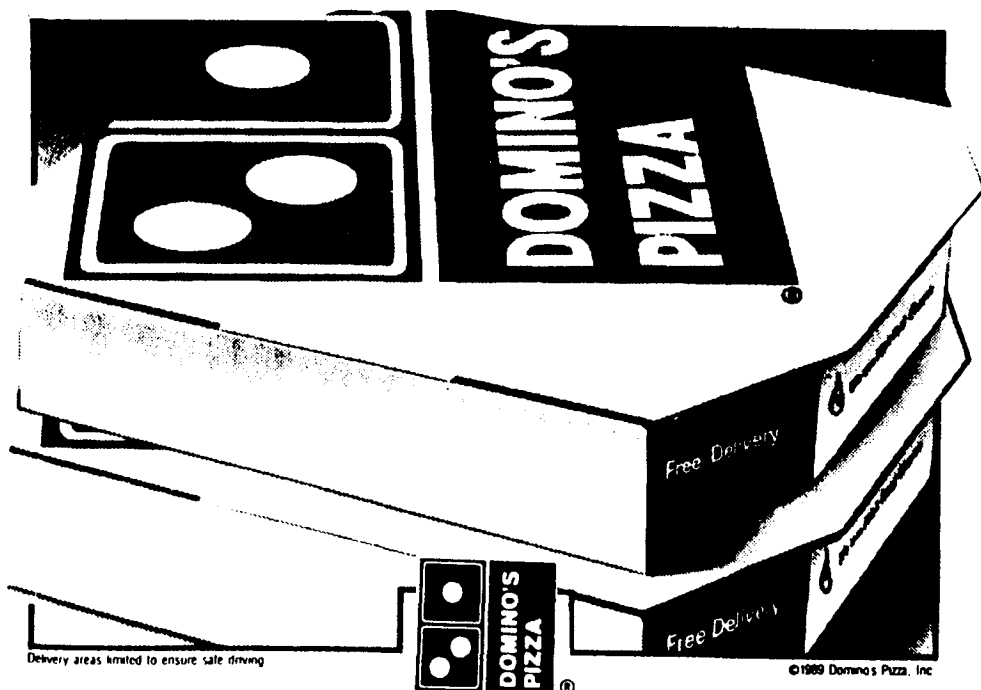
Although it does have its suspenseful moments and at some points does have you boggled as to "who's conning who," it is not a movie that I would pay to see, except maybe at the bargain matinee. out of all of the patrons who have been interviewed at the Capital City, the best I have heard from them is "It's okay." I did, however, get two who said "It's completely awful!"

I don't think it's "awful," but there are certainly other movies that deserve your attention more than "The Grifters" does.



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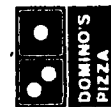
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