

Saraz's Media Virus

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North Country

The Details: Warner Brothers presents a film starring: Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand, Sissy Spacek, Woody Harrelson, and Sean Bean. Directed by Niki Caro, written Clara Bingham, Michael Seitzman, and Laura Leedy. The film has a running time of 126 minutes and is Rated R for sequences involving sexual harassment including violence and dialogue, and for language.

The Low Down: Josey Aimes (Charlize Theron) is a battered housewife attempting to start a new life with her children back in her hometown. The best option, in order to start anew, is for her to start work at the local coal mill where she and her other female coworkers endure extreme

sexual harassment at the hands of their male coworkers. After this affects her life, she decides to take a stand for what is right and to regain the respect of her family and friends.

The Dirty: This is an Oscar worthy film: great acting, great script, and overall a wonderful cinematic piece. Overall this is by far one of the best dramas to be released this year, and I'd be suprised if it does not walk away with at least one or two Oscars.

It is an inspirational story that women and men alike can get behind. If you, a sister, a mother or spouse has ever had to deal with sexual harassment or rape, then you can almost instantly understand what these characters are going through. The struggle of these women is documented in such a way that you can feel the strife and injustice that they were forced to endure, all because they wanted to exist in a so called "man's world." This is

the type of film that is designed from beginning to end to grab you by your heartstrings, and not let go. Sorrow and anger drive you through as the character of Josey is attacked, accused of misdeeds, and even abandoned by her own father and son.

Coming from a single parent household myself, I can easily relate to what this woman has to go through to raise her children and why this job is so important to her. The realness of this story is one of its strongest points. For those of us that have watched our parents struggle to keep their head above water in order to put food on our plates, this film is also a tribute to them.

The only real downfall to this film is the fact that it is a bit slow moving. It at times feels like the director intended it to be a long film, but instead of having enough footage to do so, scenes ran longer than necessary. The other thing that may have made it slower than it needed to be is

over usage of dramatic pause and insert shots that the film did not quite need in order to convey its message.

Overall this is a true work of art, is extremely inspirational, and is easy to relate to. I do not think it is necessary to see it in the theater, for it should have the same intended affect if you watch it at home, but if you have some free time do try to get out to see it.

I give it 4 Outbreaks out of 5

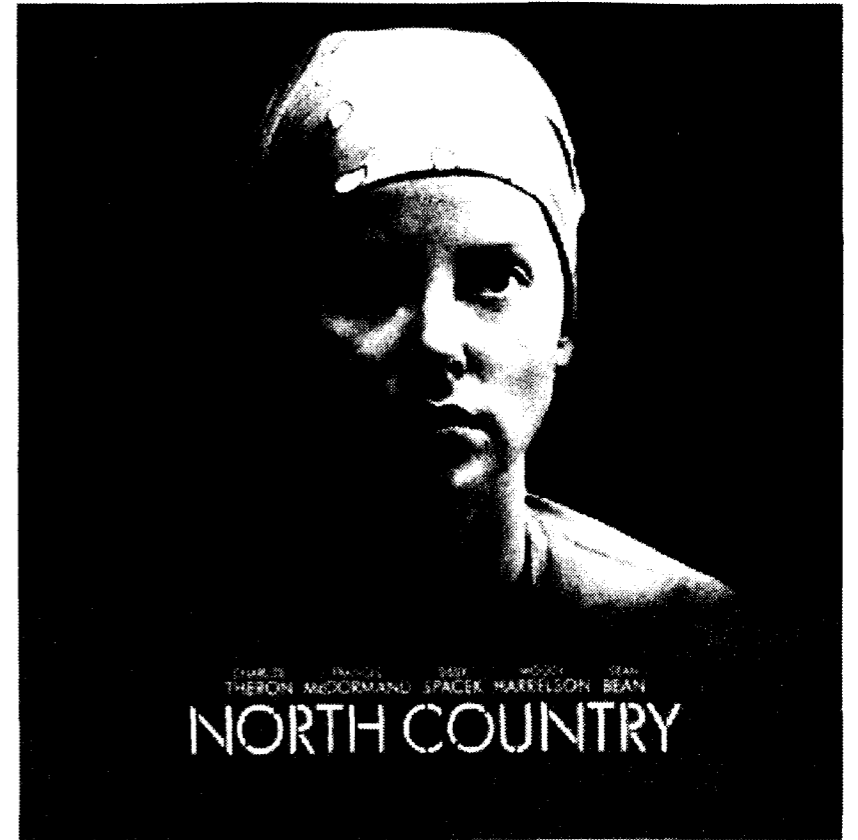


Photo courtesy of northcountrymovie.warnerbrothers.com

Cherlize Theron stars in Warner Brothers new film as Josey, a battered housewife attempting to start a new life.

Social and dating communities online

By Brianna Guyer
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The Internet has become more than just a place to purchase items on eBay, buy textbooks, check the stock market, and do research for classes. It has also become the place many people flock to for social and dating communities. With an ever present amount of websites offering people the

opportunities for both friendships and relationships, more and more people are accessing them.

Launched in February 2004, Facebook.com is a popular free website where college students can join together to meet their peers. The site's creator, Mark Zuckerberg, a Harvard University student, began the site to identify his fellow classmates. His creation quickly came to include many other colleges and universities.

Schools as close to Penn State Harrisburg as Messiah College and as far away as the University of Hawaii are all connected through Facebook.com.

The site offers a profile for each student that includes their age, the college they attend, likes, dislikes, and other noteworthy items. It has also recently started offering students the ability to create entire albums including more than one picture of them.

Students can also use the site to add other students as their friends by sending them a request and when the other student confirms they are in fact friends, they are added to their list.

Freshman student Danielle Kumar said, "I signed up for Facebook over the summer. Gradually I began to add people as my friends who went to Penn State and to other campuses and then people added me. When

I got to school it helped me to recognize people right away and I already felt as though I had made some friends. The site has also helped me to keep in touch with people from high school that I might not have otherwise."

Another popular way for students to make friends is through Friendster.com. There are currently over 13 million people

see DATING on 12

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