

Emotional performances in *Dad* appeal to all ages

by Michael Gettleman
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Jake Tremont's life is winding down and this is the setting for the new film *Dad*, starring Jack Lemmon, Olympia Dukakis and Ted Danson. It's a touching story of a father and son getting to know each other again after a long absence.

Lemmon, 64, gives an impressive performance as a 78-year-old man. Unlike previous roles in films such as *The Odd Couple* or *The China Syndrome*, this character depicts an intangible human quality, one far more difficult to capture in a movie. It rivaled the performance of Henry Fonda in *On Golden Pond*, even though Lemmon plays a man far beyond his actual age.

Danson, fortunately, broke through his sarcastic bartender stereotype by playing the role of a caring and emotionally driven son who sees his father moving closer to death. One at first expects Danson to remain in the character of Sam Malone. But Danson's acting shines through, displaying his considerable abilities.

The film opens with Tremont and his wife, played by Olympia

Dukakis, of *Moonstruck* fame, getting ready to begin their day. However, this wasn't to be a regular day at all.

Dukakis pampers her husband throughout the morning routine. She does everything from laying out his clothes to putting the sugar in his coffee, giving him his pills to putting the toothpaste on his toothbrush. While at the store, she suffers what turns out to be a rather severe heart attack.

Their son, John, a Wall Street executive, takes a leave of absence to come out to the coast and help out while their mother is in the hospital. He had not been home in two years and was unprepared for the changes which time had taken upon his father. Some comfort was provided by his sister Annie, played by Kathy Baker, but the story is based around the mutual support which comes from the father/son relationship.

Together, the two learn to take care of daily activities. Knowing that mother won't be able to perform as she once did, John teaches his father how to take care of himself. Simple activities are suddenly difficult since Jake is out of practice. Together, they re-learn how to wash dishes, clean the

house and even learn how to have fun again. The growth on both of them is extraordinary.

Throughout the film, there is a gentle blend of humor and sadness which takes the viewer on an adventure through the soul. Lemmon uses his subtle touch of comedy which frequently provides a wonderful transition out of a deep and serious moment.

All of the characters in this film are believable and real. It's almost as if *Dad* were an excerpt from the writer's true life and it may well be. This film is touching and it even has a happy ending, sort of. Its happiness is expressed in a unique manner as it is throughout the entire film. This slice of real life is one all could easily enjoy. But be warned, you may shed a tear yourself.

Much of the humanistic effect which is felt throughout can easily be attributed to director Gary David Goldberg. He makes the film so you'll laugh and you'll cry but most of all you'll feel. Even as you drive off, as John Tremont does at the end, you can't help but to be touched by *Dad*.

Entertainment Briefs

Prince and Bassinger heat things up

Prince, whose *Batman* soundtrack instantly shot to the top of the charts, was recently joined in the studio by Kim Bassinger, the film's female lead. Bassinger contributed her own musical talents to a 19-minute extended version of the song "Scandalous." She also submitted the plot for a video which Prince reportedly turned down, because it was too controversial for even his dirty mind.

Young offended by jeans ad

The Lee Jeans Company may soon experience legal difficulties after Neil Young recognized the chords of his rock staple "My My, Hey Hey (Out of the Blue)" in an overseas ad aired by the company. Legal action by Young seems likely after the anti-endorsement stance he established with his award-winning "This Note's For You" video.

Springsteen to record without band

Bruce Springsteen has announced that the members of the E Street Band will not accompany him on his next musical project. The Boss also plans to tour without the support of the seven piece band. No information has been released regarding the due date of the upcoming release.

Heston holds top U.S. security clearance

The U.S. Department of Energy recently announced that actor Charlton Heston has qualified for the nation's highest nuclear weapons security clearance for the past six years. This clearance has enabled Heston to work on six highly classified projects, mostly involving the narration of secret films and videotapes. According to the Department of Energy, top security clearances are held by over 28,000 government employees.

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