

Innocent Blood puts the "Bite" on the Big Screen

by Rick Kastan
The Collegian

I am not gay. I just wanted to state that for the record. I am not gay, neither in the emotional sense nor in the sexual sense.

I had to get this off of my chest because some of my friends have expressed some interest in the matter. So here it is again, I am not gay dammit, just picky (and I guess a little too opinionated).

You see, I just don't find Renee Russo (*Lethal Weapon 3*) and Julia Roberts (you KNOW who she is) and their ilk that attractive.

I know that by saying this I have broken the cardinal rule of manhood (the one that says to be a man you must first find all women below a certain body weight undeniably attractive and then proceed to nauseate them with constant sexual advances). I DO believe in this principle (as well as the others pertaining to where a woman belongs and what say she should have in guy business - but I'm not even gonna get into that) and my views on Tinkerbell and company are the exception not the rule.

Call me crazy (and I know you will) but there should be an

amendment excluding all women whose lips take up more than 50% of the skin on their head (Ms. Roberts and Ms. Russo included). I just think that an actress should have more acting ability than she has teeth.

I'm not gay, I just have different tastes, and as of this weekend, that taste is for French.

In John Landis' new film, *Innocent Blood*, French-beauty

Marie, a vampire and fellow Pittsburgher who literally likes to put the bite on the bad guys.

You may remember (but you probably don't) the beautiful Ms. Parillaud in the 1990 French thriller *La Femme Nikita* where she first blasted her way into my heart. If you didn't see the flick...she's HOT. She's got a cute little accent, eyes to die for and a smile that'll

can count on her to protect you in a bar-fight. She's just...hot.

Oh, and I guess she can act good too.

Marie is a vampire living in Pittsburgh, and dining presents a delicate moral problem to her - one that she likes to solve by biting only those who deserve to die, and then finishing them off with a shotgun in order to keep them from living as Undead.

But she runs into a problem when she puts the bite on mafia boss Sal "the shark" Macelli (Robert Loggia) and unintentionally creates a formidable enemy in the process.

Her problems only get worse when undercover cop Joe Gennaro (Anthony LaPaglia) starts trailing her in connection with his Macelli case (anyone else see what's coming?). Yup, you guessed it, a love story, with some nice dead-undead sex thrown in for good measure.

So, what do you call a film that mixes equal parts horror and comedy, blood and guts with tongue-in-cheek and a bit of full-frontal female nudity (compliments of Ms. Parillaud)? Some would call it offensive or pornographic (you know who you are). I call it a damn good time.

Innocent Blood is one of those rare film occurrences in that it's a film that mixes horror and comedy successfully.

Acting is generally good, especially Parillaud who's smile could win an Oscar and Loggia who chews up so much scenery in this film that he could have used Liberty Avenue as a toothpick. Also, it's always good to see that Don Rickles can still get work in Hollywood (PGH).

Speaking of Pittsburgh, I have never seen a movie where I could actually recognize where every scene was filmed and it's a lot of fun to see if you're from there (chances are that you are).

Direction from John Landis is fine. He's traveled this path before (*An American Werewolf in London* and *Twilight Zone*) and it should be old hat to him now.

And for those of you in the know, Landis serves up his usual spat of director cameos, this time including Sam (*Evil Dead*) Raimi, Dario (*Suspiria*) Argento and Pittsburgh's own Tom (*NOTLD*) Savini.

So, for a good time and a little bit of Pittsburgh nostalgia, go see *Innocent Blood*. It doesn't take much brains but then again it's hard to think when you're drooling.



Jeepers Creepers get a load of those Peepers! Anne Parillaud stars as Marie, a beautiful vampire in *Innocent Blood*.

Anne Parillaud steams up the screen as she makes her American feature film debut as

get your blood pumpin' to places you may have forgotten about. She's HOT...and you

Mr. Baseball

Two worlds collide on screen

by Liam O'Mahony
The Collegian

Tomorrow opens another film in a long succession of baseball-oriented plots in the movie industry. Following in the path created by such box-office hits as *The Natural*, *Bull Durham*, *Field of Dreams*, and *A League of Their Own*, *Mr. Baseball* promises a new formula for the game's portrayal.

Jack Elliot is a popular American player who is forced to play overseas in Japan to prolong his career. Tom Selleck plays Elliot, the rebellious, happy-go-lucky star accustomed to the American style of play. When he begins play with the Chunichi Dragons; two worlds of baseball collide in a comedy of conflicting cultures and lifestyles.

The Japanese and American leagues have similar uniforms and equipment, but they play far different types of game. In Japan it's often more admirable to tie a game, rather than win or lose.

Selleck has long been America's most recognized male actor on television and the big screen in such movies as *Three Men and a Cradle*, *An Innocent Man*, and *Three Men and a Little Lady*. This time he stars in his life-long dream role as a Major League ballplayer, and he didn't just step into the part. He attended training camps and former major leaguers coached him in hitting.

The film is directed by Fred Schepisi, (who also directed *Ice Man*, *Roxanne*, and *A Cry in*

the Dark.)

Co-starring with Selleck is Japan's most celebrated actor, Ken Takakura (who starred in *Black Rain*). He plays the venerable manager who is in conflict with Elliot's way of playing.

Selleck's female counterpart, Hiroko, is played by Aya Takanashi; who struggles to find her niche in a mostly male-dominated society.

Dennis Haysbert, who was seen in *Major League* and *Navy Seals*, plays the other American ballplayer. He gives Elliot advice and his experiences in Japan.

Elliot is dumped for a rookie star so he joins the Dragons, but he also has to play by their code and ethics.

The practices are harder and teamwork and unity is crucial to each game. He must also learn not to play as an individual, because selfish play is frowned upon by the fans.

Hiroko wants to become more independent and Westernized, and she comes to Elliot's aid because she understands his trouble with a new lifestyle.

Most of the film was shot on location in Nagoya, which is Japan's fourth largest city. More than 100,000 people showed up to watch the filming.

Both countries should enjoy this film as it attempts to relate to both the U.S. and Japan's lifestyles and customs through their common love for the game of baseball.

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