

entertainment

Love after death?

By K. Alice Betts

My body shook violently, my jaws and side ached with exhaustion and my eyes were red from constant tears. The pain was minimal, however, if the movie hadn't ended when it did, I may have died a lovely death laughing.

Love and Death maintains the classic comic tradition of Woody Allen, writer and director.

The film is set during the Napoleonic wars. Woody Allen portrays Boris, a meek Russian pacifist confronted with the mysteries of war, love and death. Boris's inquisitive yet cowardly nature provides a hysterical development of comic sequences.

The dynamic performance of Allen is complimented by Diane Keaton. Together, their predicaments induce continual laughter. The assassination plot of Napoleon highlights the duo's antiwar

antics.

Perhaps an injustice to Allen, any serious discussion of love, death and related manifestations were easily ignored. The film's appeal is derived solely from Allen's sense of humor, not his philosophy.

Theater screens are frequently defaced by the barrage of social comment and thought-provoking movies. The simplicity of a comedy has been lost among the multitude of pseudo-intellectual productions.

Allen's *Love and Death* defies the contemporary themes of filmmaking. The movie is without prominent message or lesson. Unprecedented laughter is omnipresent as theater-goers are transformed into hyenas.

Simply stated, *Love and Death* is a funny movie—very funny. For a couple of dollars, you receive a sustaining smile, worth every penny.



Photo courtesy of Stuart Theatre

Diane Keaton, Woody Allen's better half, in *Love and Death*.

bernstein on words

'Humongous' grows



By Theodore M. Bernstein

Mighty big word. In central New Jersey among teenagers and those a little older the word humongous is in common use, according to Shep Con of Metuchen, N.J. He says that it means "bigger than big" and he guesses that in origin it encompasses huge and monstrous. The pronunciation stresses the mon, but it has nothing to do with mongoose.

First, firstly, etc. A reader disentombs an argument that many of us thought had been laid to permanent rest some time ago. The argument concerned whether in a series of paragraphs to use firstly, second, third, etc., or first, second, third, etc., or first, secondly, thirdly, etc.

Few people use firstly any more and the reader says that writers, having discarded firstly, also are discarding secondly,

thirdly, etc., by what he terms false analogy because adverbs are called for and they are using adjectives: first, second, etc.

His argument does not hold water or gin or even root beer, however, because first, second, third, etc., are all adverbs as well as adjectives, as any dictionary will confirm. The use of a first, second, third listing is quite proper and in no way inferior to a one, two, three listing, which has never caused anyone to lift a pen in protest.

Word oddities. This month really should be November, or something like that, rather than September. The septem part of the month's name means seven. Under the ancient Roman calendar the year began in March, so that September was the seventh month. Under the Julian calendar, however, it is the ninth month, but retains its maiden name.

Movie Scene

I- *Walking Tall, Part II*- Claimed as the true story of a rebel. Preceded by *Walking Tall* and probably the basis for *Walking Tall Part III*. Rated PG.

II- *Rollerball*- Futuristic look of a society and its violent national pastime. Rated R.

III- *Return to the Macon County Line*- The absurd misadventures of a couple of all-American service boys in search of fun. Rated PG.

State-1415 O
The *Devil's Rain*- A suspenseful thriller with a most unusual ending. Rated PG.

Cinema Theaters- 13th and P

I- *The Land that Time Forgot*- Starring Doug McClure, an adventure film of yesterday. Rated PG.

II- *The Happy Hooker*- Xaviera Hollander's biography as a lady of the night. Rated R.



Dave Landis, as Christ, in *Godspell*.

Photo by Ted Kirk

Stephen Schwartz's widely acclaimed rock musical *Godspell* will open this evening at the Lincoln Community Playhouse. The musical, which is based on *The Gospel according to St. Matthew*, opened in New York in 1967 and is still playing to capacity crowds.

Featured in the Lincoln production will be Teri Knuth, Dave Landis, Melodee Landis, Channing Dutton, Steve Peterson, Jill Eiche, Julie Scott, Stef Kallos, Dan Reinher and Bob Kastanek.

After the Friday opening, the musical will run Fridays through Sundays at 8 p.m. until Sept. 28, with matinee's on Sept. 14 and 28 at 2:30 p.m.

The musical's popularity is due partly to the hit single from the show *Day by Day*, which topped Billboard's charts for two months. Other songs from the show includes: *All for the Best*, *On the Willows* and *Turn Back O Man*.

The Playhouse production will be guest directed by E. Mike Debbins with costumes by Gail Oliver.

Ticket prices for evening performances are: adults, \$4.65, students \$2.60. Matinee prices are: adults \$2.50, students \$1.25.

Cooper-54th and O

Nashville- Robert Altman's look of the country-western music capitol, Nashville, Tenn., and its ultimate manifestations. Rated R.

Plaza Theaters- 12th and P

I- *Once is not Enough*- Jacqueline Susann's novel starring the likes of David Jansen and Kirk Douglas. Rated R.

II- *The Apple Dumpling Gang*- In the tradition of Walt Disney filled with fun and frolic. Rated G.

III and IV- *Jaws*- Running in its 11th week, a terrorizing flick of sharks, victims and fake blood. Rated PG.

Stuart- 13th and P

Love and Death- Woody Allen's satirical and comical discovery of love, death and sex. Rated PG.

Douglas Theaters- 13th and P

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7:00 p.m.

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ON SALE AT CIVIC AUD. - BRANDEIS OUTLETS,
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WOODY ALLEN DIANE KEATON

"LOVE and DEATH"

Daily At 1:30-3:30
5:30-7:30 and
8:30

Stuart

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SEPT. 7
2-4 P.M.

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