



Courtesy of Island Pictures

Phoenix

'Reardon' has no plot, no skin

By Michael Deeds
Staff Reviewer

Ah, the 1960s. Weren't they the years to remember? How do I know? I wasn't there. But judging from the latest teen-age reminiscer, "A Day in the Life of Jimmy Reardon," neither were a certain director, scriptwriter and producer who created this movie.

Movie Review

And by the way, the big shot of the movie, actor River Phoenix, knows about as much about that generation as any other typical teen-ager of the '80s. Actually, he acts like he knows less.

"Jimmy Reardon" is a movie based on one day of a 17-year-old boy's life in 1962. This boy, who happens to a master at the art of picking up women, has a wealthy girlfriend whom, of course, he is patiently and lovingly waiting to de-virginize. Yeah, right.

Meanwhile he is trying to decide what college to go to all in one day, but has a limited choice because he was suckered out of part of his tuition money by a female con and her phony abortion story.

Better yet, he spends his free time playing a kinky "Jack the Ripper" sex game with his best friend's girlfriend every afternoon for kicks. Jimmy Reardon is definitely the kind of buddy we all need. But we all have to sympathize with poor Jimmy as he desperately tries to come up with enough tuition money all in 24 short hours in order to go to the college of his choice, instead of his father's. Ooh, that teen-age rebellion.

Well, of course Jimmy has all kinds of neat ways to go about coming up with money, but these aren't half as interesting as his family life. Jimmy's father is a bellowing ruler of the house, and you begin to picture him as a total wife-beating, child-hating, racist, sexist bastard by the end of the movie. But soon you find out he's just a normal guy.

He cheats on his wife.

Jimmy's mother has a sleazy friend that his father hollers about all the time, so what happens when she has to leave after one of her visits with Jimmy's mother? She "allows" Jimmy to drive her home in Dad's car and then jump into her bed. Gee, I hope Mom doesn't mind.

Anyway, the whole movie goes like that. Jimmy sleeps with her, then

he romps with this other girl, then his grandma's bridge partner... then he finds out about his father. Cranky old Dad has been sleeping with his mother's sleazy friend, too. Like father, like son.

During all these neat little orgiastic events, Jimmy is worried about poor Lisa, his wealthy girlfriend. Well, let's just say she finally comes through, but Jimmy isn't able to function because he has just been with Mom's friend. So Lisa runs off with the town jock. And all in straight '60s-movie style.

"Jimmy Reardon" is a phony movie with phony actors playing phony characters. If a 17-year-old's predictably tiresome hormone storm is your idea of entertainment, then maybe you'll like the movie. But if you get tired of a movie that has no originality and even less plot, then you probably ought to pass this one up.

Plus, even though there's sex going on all the time, it certainly isn't graphic. It's a skin flick with no skin. So don't get excited. It drags and it has absolutely no sensitivity to the times. Other than that, it's great.

"A Day in the Life of Jimmy Reardon" is playing at the Douglas 3 Theaters, 13 and P streets.

Local band's 'Rhythm' is inspirational

REVIEW from Page 6

Elysium Crossing "Rhythm of the Rain" Independently produced cassette

Lincoln's Elysium Crossing has just entered the burgeoning local tape sweepstakes.



Courtesy Elysium Crossing

"Rhythm of the Rain" is, pure and simple, one of the best albums I've

heard in two or three years, local or otherwise. While sounding very accessible to alternative radio airplay when compared to most Lincoln bands, it remains a completely original work, and an inspirational one as well.

The most noticeable sound on the tape is Shamus Adams' guitar, which immediately and constantly brings back memories of U2's "Boy" album, (if perhaps Steven Kilbey had been on vocals.) Adams guitar playing is astounding.

Vocalist Thomas Irvin's breathy romanticism sounds beautiful throughout, and his near-exact Steven Kilbey/Robyn Hitchcock voice matches Adams and Vermaas perfectly. The lyrics, at their best, have the same feel of romantic idealism that Kilbey's do with the Church. Kilbey is such an-obvious influence that he's even thanked on the liner notes, (along with a host of local ne'er-do-wells.)

"Rhythm of the Rain" is bounding

with poetic youthful optimism, and Adams and Vermaas, along with drummer Bill Sullivan, play with a virtuosity of power and imagination way beyond their years. Although lyrically a bit starchy eyed at times, the sheer energy, conviction, and passion of the music overwhelms any skepticism lingering beyond the opening blast of "Morning Glory."

Although they pay too much homage to their heroes, when a band's music exudes this much passion and beauty, they can afford to be a little derivative. After all, there are worse people to emulate than U2 and the Church, by Jovi.

— Geoff McMurtry

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