

Movie has a moral

'She-Devil' unrealistic film, but acting good

By Julie Naughton
Staff Reporter

Despite a far-fetched plot and a horrible closing song, "She-Devil" isn't a bad movie.

"She-Devil's" heroine, Ruth Patchett, is overweight, well-meaning, and dangerous when mad. Her life centers on her husband, Bob -- an

movie REVIEW

accountant with no morals and a roving eye. When he has an affair with the famed romance novelist Mary Fisher, all hell breaks loose. Literally.

The premise of the story: Man marries woman because she is pregnant. They live in a tract house in suburbia. Man meets glamorous romance novelist. Man leaves wife. Wife gets really annoyed, and sets out to ruin the life of the man and the mistress. Man and mistress end up unhappy. Wife is vindicated.

Roseanne Barr and Meryl Streep star in this Susan Seidelman film. It co-stars Ed Begley Jr., Sylvia Miles and Linda Hunt.

Barr, as Ruth, is very good. Her Ruth is devious, conniving -- and able to achieve her goals. Barr goes beyond her "Roseanne" character of night-time television to prove that she has dramatic ability.

Begley, as Robert Patchett, is really hard to like. Patchett is a bag of hormones who feels the need to go after every attractive woman he sees; the man has absolutely no morals. He leaves his wife Ruth for glamorous romance novelist Fisher, and then he cheats on Fisher with his air-headed



Photo courtesy of Orion Pictures

Meryl Streep, Ed Begley Jr. and Roseanne Barr star in "She-Devil."

bookkeeper (and new girlfriend), Olivia Honey (Maria Pitillo).

Streep's Fisher seems to be based on how the producers imagine a romance novelist might live. Mary is a caricature of Barbara Cartland, Danielle Steele and every other romance novelist the producers can conceive of. Manipulative Mary, used to getting everything she wants, eventually gets her comeuppance as her lover Bob pursues other women. Eventually (gasp) Mary becomes a better person as a result of her affair with Patchett.

Academy Award winner Linda

Hunt and Academy Award nominee Sylvia Miles team up to play Nurse Hooper and Mrs. Fisher. Both are charming in their roles.

Hunt, as Hooper, befriends Ruth, and the result is Bob's downfall. Hunt plays a small role, but her presence in this movie is excellent.

Miles plays Mary's mother, Mrs. Fisher. She is hilarious as the drugged elderly woman who emerges to contradict her daughter's mythical biography. Cultured Mary wants everyone to believe that she was born into a very rich Long Island family, but in reality, she was born to a work-

ing-class woman from Brooklyn. Mrs. Fisher is funny as she talks about her daughter being -- well, very friendly to the boys of Hoboken, N.J.

Most of the characters in this movie seem like stereotyped personalities. The characters aren't realistic portrayals of romance writers, spurned wives or horny young accountants. Rather, the movie is more of a farce. The characters, too often, skim the surface; their motives and their reasonings are not explored very deeply. Character texture and shading are missing. However, the movie has a moral, all of the bad guys get

what's coming to them in the end, and supposedly everyone ends up a better person.

Seidelman also directed "Cookie," "Desperately Seeking Susan" and "Making Mr. Right." Like many of her earlier films, Seidelman used New York City and its suburbs as the setting for "She-Devil", and that was a good choice. There are some truly beautiful shots of the city, including the scene where Mary meets Robert and Ruth for the first time. The occasion is a literary party, held in the city's Solomon Guggenheim Museum. The Frank Lloyd Wright building is done ample justice by the candlelit party scene. Mary's mansion on New York's Long Island provides for beautiful beach scenes, and amazingly enough, even Central Park looks inviting.

"She-Devil" was produced by Jonathan Brett and Seidelman, and co-produced by G. Mac Brown, Mark R. Burns and Barry Strugatz adapted the screenplay from British novelist Fay Weldon's "The Life and Loves of a She-Devil."

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Tues. Dec. 12 1:00pm East Union
Wed. Dec. 13 3:00pm Nebraska Union
Thurs. Dec. 14 10:00am Nebraska Union
Wed. Dec. 20 7:00pm Nebraska Union

DECEMBER 15TH LAST DAY
Last day to put in Personals, Want-Ads, Announcements, Etc., in the Daily Nebraskan. Deadline is 2pm for December 18th - Last Paper of Semester.

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6:15 in the City Union

Get Ready to Cross-Country Ski
Are you ready for snow? Then get ready to cross-country ski. The Outdoor Adventure program presents video tapes of "skinny skiing" which will be shown at the new Campus Recreation Center, Thursday, December 14 from 3:00-4:00. Questions? Call us at 472-4777.

INTRAMURAL ENTRY DEADLINES
Tuesday, January 16, 1990 is the entry deadline for the following intramural activities: men's and women's basketball, co-rec volleyball, and chess. Participants are strongly encouraged to enter early at the Campus Recreation Center. 472-3467.

STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30 p.m. in Henzik Auditorium. Topic: "The Peace Corps." New and old members are encouraged to come!!

GREEK AFFAIRS
AGS Little Sister Christmas Celebration: Wednesday, December 13! Dinner at the house at 5:30 p.m. and caroling at 6:30 p.m., with gift exchange following.

Gina S. (DG).
Congratulations on your General Motors internship. We'll miss you next semester.
Love, your Delta Gamma Sisters.

PERSONALS

Duga, Duga.
Thank you for a fabulous weekend. Lots O' Smiles

B.J.M.
Students of BIO 213 all learned about the Sympathetic Nervous System. However, you've stimulated mine into a frenzy! Ever since that first Tuesday at 10:30, my S.N.S. has been overworked. My heart rate increases, my blood vessels constrict, my bronchioles and pupils dilate, sweat streams out of my pores, and my Na-K pumps are pumping at full speed.
So, please, for my sake, keep me from tetanus and return me to homeostasis!
Tachycardially yours, A.B.

Michelle: (moya ochen kraceevaya podrooga).
If art is your lover, you'll be having a lot of sex next semester. Just make sure it's good sex, OK? Congratulations and good luck in Chicago. I'm going to miss you. Lee, your pagan pool partner: FAC party pal/Roskoek chum

Brian (AGS).
Happy 21st Birthday! Have fun tonight!
Love, Jill
P.S. Congrats on Secretary

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