## Monday, December 11, 1989 Daily Nebraskan Page 11 Movie has a moral ne-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" "She-Devil's" heroine, Ruth Patchett, is overweight, well-meaning, and dangerous when mad. Her life centers on her husband, Bob -- an



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 bevond 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



Meryl Streep, Ed Begley Jr. and Roseanne Barr star in 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. elderly woman who emerges to contradict her daughter's mythical biography. Cultured Mary wants

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.

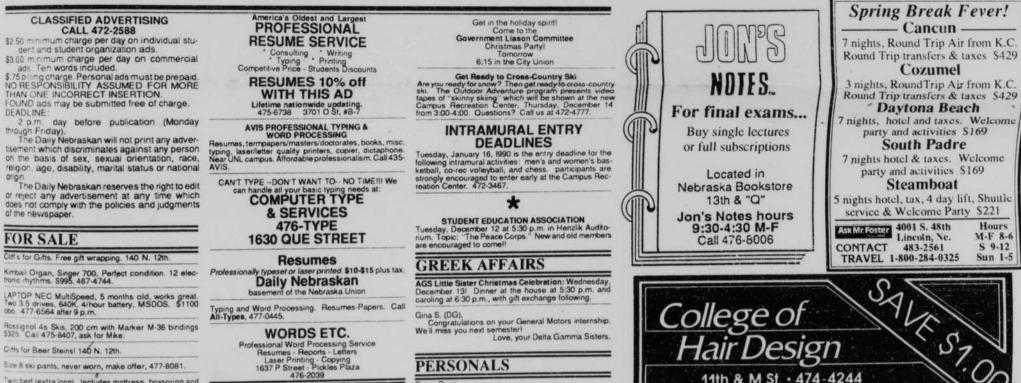
Most of the characters in this movie seem like stereotyped personalities. The characters aren't realistic portrayals of romance writers, spurned wives or horny young ac-Fisher. She is hilarious as the drugged countants. Rather, the movie is more of a farce. The characters, too often, skim the surface; their motives and their reasonings are not explored very everyone to believe that she was born deeply. Character texture and shad-into a very rich Long Island family, ing are missing. However, the movie but in reality, she was born to a work- 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."





PERSONALS

ga, Duga, Thank you for a fabulous weekend. Lots-O-Smilet

Photo courtesy of Orion Pictures "She-Devil."

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Wed.	Dec. 14 Dec. 20	10:00am 7:00pm	Nebraska Unior

ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DECEMBER 15TH LAST DAY

CAREER PLANNING & PLACEMENT CENTER

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# B.J.M. Students of BIO 213 all learned abut the Sympathetic Nervous System. However, you've stimulated mine info a trenzy! Ever since that first Tuesday at 10:30, my S.N.S. has been overworked. My heart rate increases, my blood vessels constrict, my broncioles and pupils diate, 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? Congratu-lations and good luck in Chicago. I'm going to miss you. Lee, your pagan pool partner/FAC party pal/Rooskee chim

Brian (AGS). Happy 21st Birthday! Have fun tonight!

P.S. Congrats on Secretary

Tachycardially yours, A.B.

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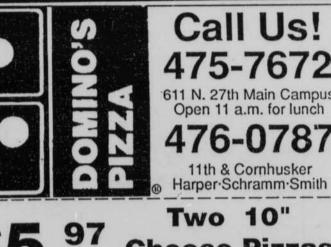
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