

Stinky story line ruins 'Consenting Adults'



"Consenting Adults"



Tired plot puts audience to sleep

By Anne Steyer
Staff Reporter

Black holes belong in science fiction, not in the plot of a supposed thriller.

"Consenting Adults," the latest film from director Alan Pakula ("Presumed Innocent") is full of gaping holes in an otherwise tired story line.

Kevin Kline is Richard Parker, a composer who writes ditties for commercials and instructional tapes. His wife Priscilla, (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio) is his business partner in the same venue.

They seem to have an idyllic life: a happy marriage, a thriving business and a talented teenage daughter. Of

course, that's the premise of nearly every thriller to come since "Fatal Attraction."

This film doesn't have Glenn Close, however. Instead, Richard and Priscilla have new neighbors; new neighbors who live life a little more on the edge, and with a lot more money.

Eddy and Kay Otis (Kevin Spacey and Rebecca Miller) move next door in the quiet suburb and introduce a new vitality to the Parker's lives and their marriage.

But Eddy wants Richard and Priscilla to take more risks. He integrates himself in their lives by swindling their insurance company for \$30,000.

Before long, he lets Richard know he's interested in wife-swapping for an evening. Maybe this is supposed to be titillating, but it appears instead to be cheap and uninteresting.

Richard though, is lured in by Eddy's taunts and promises, only to find himself in deeper than he thinks: He winds up facing a murder rap and then, a divorce.

The story stinks. If all this weren't enough to be totally unbelievable, Priscilla doesn't even question the charges. She immediately believes Richard's guilt and deserts him, only



Courtesy of Hollywood Pictures Company

Richard (Kevin Kline) and his wife, Priscilla (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio), become dazzled by their new neighbors' fast-lane lifestyle in "Consenting Adults."

to wind up in Eddy's arms, who is lamenting the supposed murder of his wife by his best friend. Please!

Even the ultimate confrontation lacks suspense and tension. The direction uses no new angles and not even any old, exciting ones.

Pakula's cast of talented stars goes to waste in this clichéd reread. It's a shame, but Mastrantonio is given virtually nothing to do—ditto for Miller.

Kline is a great actor and does what he can with this material, but there are no new avenues for him to explore.

Spacey, known primarily for being a stage actor, suffers the same doom. He makes an excellent bad guy, but a tired story can only breed a tired villain.

Such is the fate of the film. All this weariness puts the audience to sleep.

Sinead O'Connor criticizes Bob Dylan, Catholic Church

NEW YORK (AP) — Sinead O'Connor renewed her attacks on the Catholic Church in an interview released Sunday and criticized Bob Dylan for not sticking up for her at his tribute concert last month.

The Irish singer said her comments and actions — including tearing up a picture of Pope John Paul II on national television — were bound to offend people.

"The fact is people are asleep," O'Connor said in the Nov. 9 issue of Time magazine. "They need a short, sharp shock. They need that to make them stand up and listen."

O'Connor pointed to the Dylan tribute concert at Madison Square Garden, where she was booed off the stage. Dylan became a folk hero in the 1960s by singing anti-establishment and anti-war songs.

"What occurred to me in those

seconds was that if this audience felt like this, then they hadn't actually listened to what Bob Dylan said, they didn't actually get it," she said.

"And this is proved by the fact that himself, their figurehead, fell asleep," O'Connor said. "Bob Dylan went onstage after that had happened to another artist."

She said Dylan told her afterward "that I should keep on doing what I'm doing. But it's no good saying that to me. Why doesn't he say it to them? I mean, why doesn't he take his responsibility?"

Dylan did not speak to the crowd during his relatively brief appearance toward the end of the concert.

Dylan agent Joan Hyler in Los Angeles didn't immediately return a call seeking comment Sunday. A call to Columbia Records, Dylan's label, went unanswered.

entertainment SHORTS

Playhouse opens auditions

From Staff Reports

The Lincoln Community Playhouse, with the Nebraska Arts Council, will have open auditions for the play "My Funny Valentine" today and Tuesday.

The cast will consist of six to eight men and women, ages 16 and over. At least two of the roles will require dance ability.

Auditioners must perform a 2-

minute song of their choice and one song by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart. Dancers should prepare a 1-minute tap or jazz routine.

Auditions will be from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the playhouse, 2500 S. 56th St. Appointments may be arranged by calling the playhouse at 489-9608.

"My Funny Valentine" will be performed Feb. 11 through Feb. 14, 1993.

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Notice of sale of unclaimed bicycles November 14, 1992, 10:00am, Lincoln Land Towing, 410 West P Street. No checks accepted!

4 Books For Sale

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