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Chapman

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As popular as Chapman is, many members of the crowd came not to see him but his opening act, the Aus-tralian alternative band Newsboys.

The Newsboys put on a great cight-song set. The stage was plas-tered with the title of their newest album, "Going Public." But they played only two songs from that al-bum. The other six came from their second album, "Not Ashamed." The Newsboys got the younger

crowd to the concert, but it might have been the heartfelt lyrics of a 31year-old man that changed their lives.

There are no small victories in the fight against heart disease. American Heart Association 1992, American Heart Associ

Monday, October 31, 1994

'Silent Fall' starts OK but crashes down

By Chad Johnson Staff Reporter

to identify the killer. Rainer (Richard Dreyfuss) is pulled out of retirement as a favor

to the local sheriff, Mitch Rivers

(J.T. Walsh), who may or may not have some secrets of his own. At

the murder scene, Tim Warden, the autistic child, has to be coaxed out

of the idea of turning the authori-ties to shreds with a 12-inch kitchen knife.

Rainer comes through with his knowledge of the child's condition and the special techniques it takes

to get in touch with him. Also at the scene is Sylvie Warden (Liv

Tyler), who claims to have fought

off the assailant but did not get a

sioned to discover the killer's iden-

tity using his techniques. Other-

wise Tim will be given to the ten-der mercies of Dr. Harlinger (John

Lithgow), who likes to use drugs

and potions to treat autistic people.

As the case develops, Sylvie starts getting "closer" to Jake, and

a certain tension ensues as Jake

gets closer to discovering the truth.

Performances are good across the board, and Dreyfuss elevates

the movie in spite of the script.

Dreyfuss' character is commis-

look at his face.

Quik Facts

Movie: "Silent Fall" An autistic child is the only witness to his parents' grisly murder, and it is up to retired child psy-chiatrist Jake Rainer to get the kid

Rating: R Stars: Richard Dreyfuss, Linda Hamilton, John Lithgow, J.T. Walsh, Liv Tyler

Director: Bruce Beresford

Grade: C+

Five Words: Autistic child only murder witness

Linda Hamilton is positively domesticated in a role that is far removed from her gun-toting, terminator-trashing days.

Ben Faulkner plays Tim Warden, the silent witness. He does a remarkable job, and don't be surprised if last year's trend of kids for Oscars continues, with at least a nomination for him. Liv Tyler (daughter of Aerosmith singer Steven Tyler) is decent as ingenueturned-nymphet, and John Lithgow continues his run of characters you'd rather not have your daughter bring home, portraying rival psychiatrist Rene Harlinger.

The direction is capable, as Bruce Beresford ("Driving Miss Daisy") handles the cast and the scenes reasonably well.

However, the director fails to challenge the viewer with any un-



Courtesy of Morgan Creek Productions Richard Dreyfuss, right, stars as a psychiatrist, and Ben Faulkner stars as an autistic murder witness in "Silent Fall."

usual angles or lighting. Both are cut and dried, because for some reason Berelson felt the need to telegraph everything to the audience well in advance

The film does well as a mystery until the final reel, when it takes a sharp left and becomes a poor ver-sion of "The Hand That Rocks the Cradle," when Sylvie becomes Little Miss Psycho.

The abandonment of the rapport that develops between Jake and Tim is the biggest failing of the film.

Along the same line, Dreyfuss

and Faulkner save the film from being a waste of celluloid. Their acting lends weight to an otherwise light and airy film.

The writing starts off well, but it appears as if the producers held the original script hostage for an arms deal as the rewrite was completed.

Stagnant direction and un-imaginative photography also hurt the film, giving it an even more disjointed feeling.

In essence, the whole of the film is not as good as the sum of its parts.



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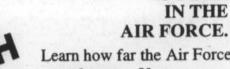
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