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Courtesy of Hollywood Pictures

Bill Pullman and Sandra Bullock appear in "While You Were Sleeping."

Movie predictable, heartwarming

By Gerry Beltz
Film Critic

The Facts

Romance is not dead ... not quite yet, anyway.

Sandra Bullock, who has leapt to stardom with movies like "Demolition Man" and "Speed," takes the lead role in "While You Were Sleeping," another romantic comedy to tickle the funny bone and warm the heart.

It works, too.

Lucy (Bullock) is a lonely subway attendant who is tired of working holidays and has an empty spot in her heart her cat can't fill. She has no family, few friends and has fallen in love with a man to whom she's never spoken.

When Lucy's mystery man (Peter Gallagher) falls onto the tracks and into the path of an oncoming train, Lucy springs out of the booth and saves his life just in the nick of time.

However, the mystery man is in a coma and one standard cinematic miscommunication gets everyone thinking that Lucy is Peter's (the mystery man's) fiancée.

Film: "While You Were Sleeping"

Stars: Sandra Bullock, Bill Pullman, Peter Gallagher

Director: Jon Turteltaub

Rating: PG

Grade: B

Five words: Romantic comedy with comatose twist.

is enjoyable.

Director Jon Turteltaub ("Three Ninjas," "Cool Runnings") knows all the tricks on what to do and when to do it in a romantic comedy, but he doesn't seem to know where to stop. Although the movie's running time is about 90 minutes, it feels like it takes more than two hours to get from beginning to end.

Sandra Bullock proves she can handle a leading role with "While You Were Sleeping," but only if that lead role is supported by a strong cast and a strong script. If either of those factors had been any weaker, she would have been in trouble.

Gallagher plays a great vegetable, just lying there, completely motionless. It's easily the best performance of a body in a non-speaking role since Kevin Costner in "The Big Chill."

(By the way, you don't need to use your free call to the Psychic Readers Network to figure out the end of this flick.)

It may seem long, but "While You Were Sleeping" is a great flick, and proves that love is not a dead issue.

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-Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"ROMANE BOHRINGER IS IMPRESSIVE AND DEVASTATING."

-Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES



RICHARD BOHRINGER ELENA SAFONOVA ROMANE BOHRINGER
Paris, 1942.

The Accompanist

A Film by Claude Miller

PG-13

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