

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Mary Ann Muggy

'M*A*S*H' reminiscent of childhood

When I was little, the most important person in my life was my daddy. I loved everything about him — the way he smelled, the way his mustache tickled, the way he gave my sisters and me piggyback rides on the way to bed.

Things don't seem so easy now. My dad and I don't get along as well as we used to. We fight all the time about money and my future.

The other night, after another one of these fights, I retreated to the TV, mumbling how we would never get along, when I came across "M*A*S*H."

I suddenly found myself at age three again, eagerly wanting to spend time with my daddy. Grandpa sat on the old green couch that sagged with age, and Daddy lounged in the brown leather recliner at the back of the living room.

My teddy bear, Radar, and I climbed up on my daddy's lap and snuggled into his chest. The musky smell of Old Spice mingled with the warm smell of his pipe.

This is the way it was every week in my house.

The show started, and I was in heaven. My daddy looked like a cross between Hawkeye and B.J. He was tall and skinny and had the same black hair as Hawkeye, mixed with a few white hairs that reminded me of pepper. He had a mustache just like B.J.'s. It was brown and bushy, and it tickled when he would kiss me good night.

I got scared as we watched the show. On this episode, a sniper lurked just outside the 4077. I wasn't exactly sure what a sniper was, but there was a lot of noise coming from the TV, and the people on the show were getting scared, too. But my daddy wrapped his big, strong arms around me, and I wasn't so scared anymore.

I looked over to my grandpa sitting on the couch, and I realized that he looked just like Col. Potter. They both had silvery white hair and wrinkled skin that seemed to tell a story. They both had short tempers, and yelled in voices gravelly from years of smoking.

During the commercial break, I went from age three to five, and I remembered my daddy and myself saying goodbye as he left for Army camp.

He assured me that he would be fine and he was only going to Kansas, but I was afraid that Kansas was somewhere near Korea. So many of the army guys on "M*A*S*H" got hurt, and I was afraid my daddy would, too.

I remembered how when Henry Blake tried to go home, his plane got shot down and his kids would never see him again. Weeks later, when Daddy would come home again, we continued our weekly routine, but with each return, I would hold him a little closer.

As this episode of "M*A*S*H" ended, I was back to my normal age. The argument that my dad and I had earlier in the evening didn't seem to matter anymore. I quietly went downstairs to my parents' room and opened the door. Both were asleep. Into the dark room, I whisper:

"I love you Daddy, and I'm sorry."

Muggy is a junior news-editorial major.



Courtesy of Paramount

Adele (Anne Bancroft, left) and Henry (Charles Durning, center) react with surprise as Tommy (Robert Downey Jr.) accidentally flips a turkey into his sister Joanne's (Cynthia Stevenson) lap in "Home For The Holidays."

'Home' shows warmth, truth of families

By Brian Priesman

Film Critic

Once in a great while, a movie comes along that truly deserves to be a hit.

"Home For The Holidays" is one such film.

Director Jodie Foster has gathered a superb cast to tell this simple, heartfelt story of a single mother trying to deal with life and her family during the most stressful time of the year, Thanksgiving.

Claudia Larson, played by the award-winning Holly Hunter, always returns home for Thanksgiving. She hates it, but goes out of a sense of duty, dragging her 15-year-old daughter with her.

But this year, she finds it hard to find anything to be thankful for. In the span of 36 hours, she's lost her job, her coat and her cool. Even her daughter's virginity appears to be on a collision course with a teen-age boy.

But what Claudia doesn't expect to lose is her

sense of dread and loathing, and her desire to be anywhere but home with her family.

"Home For The Holidays" is a human comedy that explores the timeless traditions of holiday family gatherings and reminds you just why you left in the first place.

W.D. Richter's script, adapted from a short story by Chris Radant, is filled with all of the quirks and peculiarities of families that people love to hate. A timeless type of humor, "Home For The Holidays" will appeal to those who have been embarrassed, humiliated or felt a sense of loathing toward their families.

Foster, whose only other directing job was the film "Little Man Tate," has done a top-notch job. Besides Hunter, her ensemble cast includes Robert Downey Jr. ("Only You"), Anne Bancroft ("The Graduate") and Dylan McDermott ("Destiny Turns on the Radio").

Also appearing are Charles Durning ("The Hudsucker Proxy"), Steve Guttenberg ("Short Circuit"), Claire Danes (TV's "My So-Called Life"), Cynthia Stevenson ("Forget Paris") and Geraldine Chaplin ("Doctor Zhivago").

"Home For The Holidays" is a poignant fam-

The Facts

Film: "Home For The Holidays"

Stars: Holly Hunter, Robert Downey Jr., Anne Bancroft

Director: Jodie Foster

Rating: PG-13 (Language)

Grade: A+

Five Words: Everything that's good about families

Movie Review



Wee Be Smoken' barbecue hits hot spot

By Gerry Beltz

Senior Reporter

To Karen and David Fike, smoking is a way of life.

Wee Be Smoken' (2441 N. 11th St., next to Video Station), owned and operated by the Fikes, was started to help with David Fike's homesickness for Alabama, Karen Fike says.

"He missed good barbecue," she said. "Originally, he built a smoker and set up near Emerald where he smoked ribs for people going to the lake."

Their current location, in Belmont Plaza, used to be a laundry, she said, but on May 1 of this year, things began to change.

"He (David) and his friends completely gutted this place," she said.

Three-and-a-half months later, on Aug. 25, Wee Be Smoken' officially opened its doors for business.

Wee Be Smoken' uses actual hickory logs in the smoker, and smokes meat for up to 24 hours after using a dry rub for some extra flavor.

Of the three sauces available, only two—mild and hot—are sitting out at the tables. If the hot isn't hot enough, a trip to the counter will get you the yellow bottle of barbecue sauce called '911.'

"It's got ground-up cayenne peppers and habanero peppers," she said.

Five sandwiches are available: pork, beef, combo, chicken and the 'Bubba,' which is a combo sandwich garnished with BBQ slaw (cole slaw mixed with a honey-dijon BBQ sauce).

"That's the way these kinds of sandwiches are served down in Alabama," she said.

Also popular at Wee Be Smoken' are Field Mice, but these aren't crispy critters, she said.

"It's a half jalapeño with the insides scooped out," she said, "then filled with cream cheese, wrapped in a slice of bacon, then smoked."

Business has been good at Wee Be Smoken', especially during the lunch rushes, she said.



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Gary Hartshorn demonstrates the appropriate eating utensils for a full slab of beef ribs at Wee Be Smoken', 2441 N. 11th St.

"People just love our two-for-\$5 lunch special, plus this location is a food hub, where people try us one day, McDonald's the next, and so on. "People come to us and say they

finally have a barbecue place that reminds them of home."

Wee Be Smoken' Barbecue is open Tuesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.