

'Grace of My Heart' magnifies life behind microphone

By **PATRICK KELLY**
Film Critic

Many movies deal with figures in the world of music by highlighting the likes of Jim Morrison, Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and Elvis Presley. "Grace of My Heart" tells a fictional story about a singer/songwriter and her struggle with a tough industry and a complicated life.

Ileana Douglas plays Edna Buxton, an heiress who trades in her debutante balls and cocktail parties for recording studios and concert halls. The transformation becomes complete when she changes her name to Denise Waverly on the advice of her slick, but caring, manager played realistically by John Turturro.

Waverly experiences extreme highs with chart-topping hits and devastating lows from personal tragedies.

As a songwriter she works with a doo-wop group, a trio of divas, an Everly Brothers-esque duo, a beatnik songwriter (played with humor by Eric Stoltz), a radio personality and a Dylan/Beach Boy/Cobain star played to flaky perfection by Matt Dillon.

Waverly's musical career was difficult to push at a time when songwriters were people who stayed behind the typewriters and pianos and never the microphone. But Waverly

The Facts

Film: "Grace of My Heart"
Stars: Ileana Douglas, John Turturro, Eric Stoltz, Patsy Kensit
Director: Allison Anders
Rating: R (language, nudity, adult situations)
Grade: B+
Five words: The music was her life

overcomes the obstacles and trials of love affairs, social issues and depression through her music.

During the film Waverly achieves her goal of letting the world hear her music over a period of time, from the late '50s to the psychedelic '60s.

"Grace of My Heart" provides an excellent insight into the recording industry during a time rich in great music.

The film highlights the original music of Elvis Costello, Burt Bacharach and Joni Mitchell.

A well-developed element of this picture was that it made subtle references (although some were incorrect) to real musicians that established mood without taking focus away from the main character.

The film was about Waverly's career and hers alone; there were no Gump-like scenes that morphed her



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRAMERCY PICTURES
ILEANA DOUGLAS stars as aspiring singer/songwriter Edna Buxton in the Allison Anders film "Grace of My Heart."

into stock footage of the Beatles or the Rolling Stones.

The storyline proved to be interesting, yet difficult to follow at times

because there were only a few scenes where the audience knew the time and setting. However, the film did convey one overall positive message — while

music may resonate from different voices or instruments it has a universal power to touch those willing to listen.

Christian TV network axes Boone show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pat Boone's fans may not be in the same mood for metal as the gospel singer.

Boone said Wednesday that a Christian television network canceled his weekly gospel music show after thousands of viewers called in outrage over his dabbling into heavy metal.

The Trinity Broadcasting Network on Tuesday canceled "GospelAmerica," which appeared on 400 stations worldwide. Trinity officials said Boone was invited to appear on another show to explain himself, and "GospelAmerica" will stay off the air in the meantime.

The singer said a charity golf tournament in Tennessee that he has hosted for 20 years also may sever ties with him.

Boone, 62, said he apparently offended many fundamentalist Christians when he appeared in black leather and fake tattoos on the American Music Awards show on Jan. 27.

"I thought everybody saw it for what it was, sort of a parody, just a send up," Boone said. "Of course, it



was difficult for Christian people, who have followed me for years and years. It seemed like I had burst out in some demented way."

The album, "In a Metal Mood: No More Mr. Nice Guy," features such tunes as Metallica's "Enter Sandman"

and Alice Cooper's "No More Mr. Nice Guy."

The music is sung in typical Boone style with an orchestra backing him up. Boone, a gospel performer for three decades, said he just wanted to try something new.

Controversy in France surrounds racy poster

PARIS (AP) — Call it "The French vs. Larry Flynt."

A court refused Thursday to ban a poster promoting the Columbia Pictures film "The People vs. Larry Flynt."

The poster, plastered on thousands of kiosks around France, has offended some Roman Catholics, who see it as an attack on their beliefs. On Monday, a group of priests and others filed a complaint with the court in Paris.

The poster in question was not the one displayed in the United States, which showed Oscar nominee Woody Harrelson hugging co-star Courtney Love.

The French market was deemed worthy of a racier version.

The poster shows Harrelson wearing a stars-and-stripes loin cloth, his arms outstretched as if crucified, superimposed on the

groin of a bikini-clad woman.

Earlier this week, the deputy mayor of Versailles, Etienne Pinte, ordered the posters torn down in his town west of the capital. Pinte said the poster bears "an image which deeply injures the convictions" of residents.

On Wednesday, the Catholic church joined the protest.

The president of the Conference of Bishops of France, Monsignor Louis-Marie Bille, said it was unacceptable to compare Christ's crucifixion with the ordeal of "a pornographer," referring to Flynt.

Judge Yves Bréillat, ruling Thursday against a ban, said that while the ad is "deliberately provocative," it is "nonetheless without pornographic connotation and doesn't seem to be an attack on some religion or religious group."

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