

Predictable plot line makes 'Feeling' hurt

By **GERRY BELTZ**
Film Critic

Marriage. It brings together more than two people.

It brings together feelings of joy, happiness and — in "That Old Feeling" — it reunites a divorced couple who hate each other with destructive possibilities.

Gee, will they look past their insults and see they still have feelings for each other?

The answer there is obvious, but how soon it happens in the film is the real surprise.

Molly (Paula Marshall, "A Family Thing") is about to get married and realizes she must invite both of her parents, despite the probability that the two will react to each other like a cobra and mongoose.

Still, movie star Lily (Bette Midler) and novelist Dan (Dennis Farina)

agree to put aside their differences for one day so their daughter Molly may have a pleasant wedding day.

(Get out your stopwatches, everyone. ...)

The cake has barely been cut before these two start flinging the insults and accusations at each other left and right. After being physically removed from the wedding, they start arguing in the parking lot, then do the nasty in a sports car.

(Now why can't some of MY arguments end like that?)

Their romantic fires are rekindled and there's no stopping these flames. Lily and Dan leave their respective spouses and go on a fling of dancing, romancing and boffing.

In the meantime, everyone else is going bonkers trying to find these two. Molly has linked up with sleazy tab-



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES
BETTE MIDLER and **Dennis Farina** star as a divorced couple who meet up again at their daughter's wedding in the new Carl Reiner comedy "That Old Feeling."

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Literary newbie, jazz giant capture their first Pulitzers



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

NEW YORK (AP) — Wynton Marsalis won the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for music on Monday and Frank McCourt took the prize for biography with his first book, a bittersweet memoir of his childhood in the slums of Limerick, Ireland.

Marsalis, a trumpet player with eight Grammys, won for his "Blood on the Fields," an epic composition that tells the story of blacks in America through poems and songs.

He is the first jazz artist to win a Pulitzer.

The Pulitzer for fiction went to Steven Millhauser for "Martin Dressler: The Tale of an American Dreamer."

There was no award given for drama. Pulitzers administrator Seymour Topping said the jury considered three finalists but "the board felt none of the three fulfilled the criteria for a Pulitzer."

McCourt, 66, popped the cork on a bottle of champagne with his wife, Ellen, in a Cambridge, Mass., hotel room to celebrate the win for his "Angela's Ashes: A Memoir."

"This is an ecstatic moment," he said. "I don't know if there's anything higher."

Jack N. Rakove, a Stanford University professor, won a Pulitzer in the history category for "Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution."

The poetry award went to Lisel Mueller for "Alive Together: New and Selected Poems." Mueller, 73, a German immigrant, also won the National Book Award for poetry. The Lake Forest, Ill., resident has written seven books of poems.

Richard Kluger received a Pulitzer in general nonfiction for "Ashes to Ashes: America's Hundred-Year Cigarette War, the Public Health, and the Unabashed Triumph of Philip Morris."

It was Kluger's second nonfiction book. Kluger, a former staffer at The Wall Street Journal, has written six novels.

The drama finalists were: "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" by previous Pulitzer winner Alfred Uhry; "Pride's Crossing" by Tina Howe; and "Collected Stories" by Donald Margulies.

New Videos

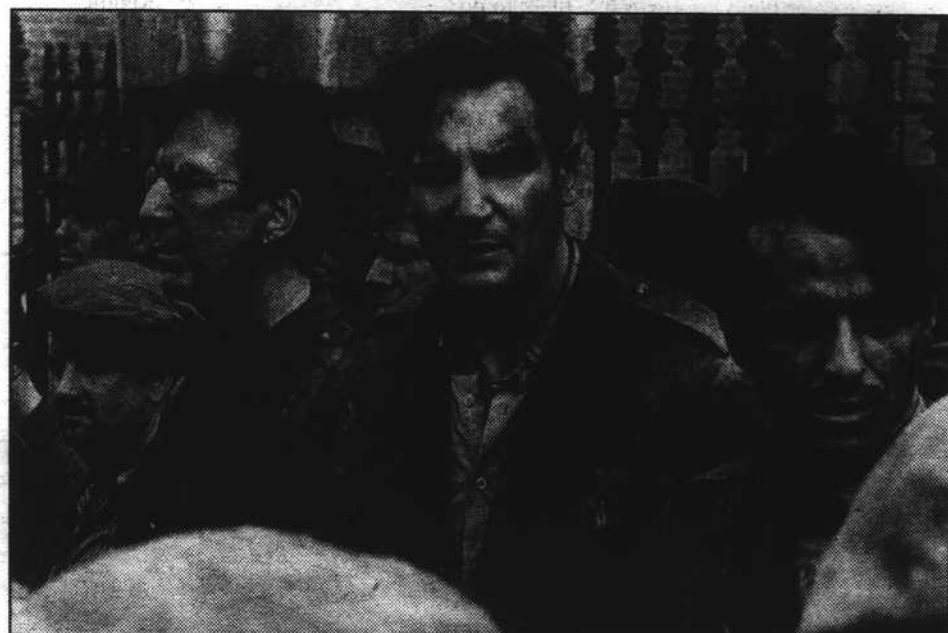


PHOTO COURTESY OF GEFEN PICTURES
LIAM NEESON (center) stars in the title role in the historical drama "Michael Collins." The film's co-stars include **Alan Rickman** (left) and **Aidan Quinn** (right).

This week's video releases offer no shortage of variety

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Film Critic

Another eclectic week, people! Medical drama, romance, biographical adventure and mystery abound on the new-release shelves, so the pick-of-the-week will be one for the comedy buffs.

"Romeo and Juliet" — Whew! This one was, to say the least, not done in a way originally pictured by William "Bud" Shakespeare but was nominated for an Academy Award this year for best art direction.

Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes play the title roles in this tale of forbidden love, but a great deal of the imagery and snazzy editing style brings to mind an MTV-ish sort of thinking.

Still, DiCaprio delivers his usual better-than-average performance, and who says love can't involve gangs and guns? Give it a shot ... I mean, give it a try.

"Lone Star" — If you blinked, you missed this one. It played for about a week at the beginning of the semester at the Mary Riepma Ross Theater and was nominated for an Academy Award for best original screenplay.

In another film that zips back and forth from flashbacks to present day, a small town sheriff tries to decipher exactly how deeply

his father (Matthew McConaughey) was involved in the mysterious murder of a corrupt law officer (played by Kris Kristofferson).

It's a little long, but definitely worth it. "Michael Collins" — Director Neil Jordan ("Interview With the Vampire") takes a cinematic look at the man who forged the beginnings of the Irish Republican Army.

The movie chronicles the tumultuous split Ireland made from England after Collins (Liam Neeson) secured an agreement with the English Parliament to grant home rule to the Irish Republic, though still leaving six counties under English control and all citizens loyal to the crown.

This one only played in Lincoln for about two weeks, so don't feel bad if you missed it. Good performances, sharp direction and two Oscar nominations (best dramatic score and best cinematography) make it a definite must-see.

"Extreme Measures" — When is "an ounce of prevention for a ton of cure" just an ounce too many? "Extreme Measures" tries to answer such a question.

A bushy-tailed doctor (Hugh Grant) is working the emergency ward one night when a homeless man comes in with some abso-

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